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6 FEBRUARY 1987

Near East/South Asia Report

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NEW OIL, WATER SOURCES DISCOVERED IN DESERT

JN090657 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jan 87 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Eight new oil wells in the Al-salam region in the western desert have produced beyond the expectation of experts. It has also been confirmed that the abundant production of these wells will open new vistas of oil exploration in the region which was believed to be devoid of any new oil sources. Experts are saying these new wells represent important oil reserves for Egypt. A team of experts also discovered seven wells of subterranean water in an area south of the Al-qattarah depression. Each well will provide 100 cubic meters of potable water per day. It has been confirmed that the water is hot, having a temperature of 65 degrees celsius, which could allow the building of an electric power station supported by water from these wells.

A responsible source at the company which drilled the oil wells in the Al-salam region said the region will represent an important and substantial addition to oil reserves in the next few years. He said 77 oil wells were drilled in the western desert, 37 of which were productive in the past three years. There was an increase in the discovery of oil wells in 1984 and 1985, during which 35 wells were drilled and 20 of which were productive.

These new discoveries are aided by the Al-malihah Al-hamra' pipeline which was inaugurated by 'Abd al-hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources last November. The pipeline is 166 km long and serves the Malihah, and Mubarakah fields and transports their production to the Al-hamra' port on the Mediterranean. This pipeline has reduced the cost of oil production in the area by 25 percent, as well as allowed the economic use of smaller wells.

The plan for the oil sector in the western desert aims to achieve a 200,000 barrel per day production, especially after international companies have shown interest in conducting exploration and drilling in a 300,000 square km area.

/9716

CSO: 4500/49

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE--Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)--Dr Muhammad Jalal Abu-al-Dhahab, minister of supply and internal trade, and Michel Noir, French minister delegate for foreign trade, who is visiting Cairo, signed a trade cooperation protocol between Egypt and France today. According to the pact, French wheat producers will export to Egypt 800,000 tons of wheat and wheat by-products by June 1988. The protocol also provides for extending to Egypt French technical assistance in the field of marketing. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1144 GMT 11 Jan 87 NC]

AFGHANS DETAINED AT AIRPORT--Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)--Security authorities at Cairo International Airport have announced that 22 passengers who were detained at the airport yesterday are Afghans who had arrived from Karachi, and are not Iranians. Airport sources have affirmed that the passengers are still being detained there. It has not yet been determined where they will be deported. They were arrested when caught carrying forged passports. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 5 Jan 87 NC]

TOURISM PROTOCOL WITH TURKEY--The minister of tourism and culture, Mesut Yilmaz who is the official guest of the Egyptian minister of tourism and civil aviation, Fu'ad Sultan, completed his contacts in Cairo Sunday. Meanwhile, a protocol which anticipates the organizing of tours in the two countries was signed by the representatives from some Turkish and Egyptian tourism agencies, it was reported. The tourism agencies from the two countries also decided to make joint ventures to call American and Japanese tourists to have their holidays in Egypt and Turkey. [Text] [Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 87 TA]

/9716

CSO: 4500/49

STATISTICS GIVEN FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 4 Jan 87 p 2

[Article by Sabah Y. Younan]

[Text]

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research announced yesterday the date for submitting applications for post-graduate studies for the academic year 1987-1988.

Students willing to further their higher studies for Diploma, M.Sc. and Ph.D. can apply as from January 3, till February 19, 1987, a source at the Ministry said.

The source added that students should apply in the colleges from which they graduated. Potential post-graduate students will have to sit for a written examination on March 1, 1987.

Those who pass the test will be interviewed by a specialist body as of March the 2nd to the 5th, 1987.

The Ministry has committed itself to expand post-graduate studies by more than 100 per cent in all Iraqi universities. Thus in the academic year 1986-1987 98 new scientific specializations

were introduced in addition to the already existing studies.

On the other hand, the number of students admitted to post-graduate studies were increased. The overall number of students attending higher studies courses in 45 colleges were around 2000 thus exceeding previous figures. They were distributed in 267 faculties and scientific specializations.

In the academic year 1985/1986, candidates for post-graduate studies were around 1,000 registered in 35 colleges for courses in 179 specialisations.

Iraqi universities' higher studies expansion programme has centred on the studies leading to Ph. D degrees in both scientific and human-

ities specialisation. Many of these specialisations are being studied for the first time in Iraq last year. The increase in students who were admitted to Ph. D courses at the current year

amounts to 258 per cent compared to the previous year 1985-1986.

The second largest increase in post-graduate studies was made in Diploma studies. In 1986, Diploma students were more than the previous year by 220 per cent. The greatest expansion in Diploma took place in the Colleges of Medicine which opened not only new studies but also expanded admission to the already existing ones.

The Colleges of Science, Engineering, Agriculture and Education in the University of Baghdad have increased the number of students registered for Ph. D degrees.

The University of Mosul has also embarked on a large expansion of post-graduate studies including Ph. D and M.A. degrees in both scientific and the humanities specializations. Around 50 students were admitted to the faculty of Agriculture and Forestry.

HOUSING MINISTRY IMPLEMENTS 1986 PLANS

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 28 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

Baghdad December 27, INA

The Ministry of Construction and Housing has implemented its 1986 plan in full.

The plan included the construction of residential units and complexes, repair and repavement of hundreds of kilometres of streets road and highways.

The plan included as well drinking and raw water projects, networks of sewerage systems, and construction of hospitals.

Mr Mohammed Fadhi Hussein, Minister of Construction and Housing elaborating, said that the roads that were repaired or repaved were the Kut-al-Ahrar, al-Brokiya-Karama-Bani-Saeed roads, the second lane of Najaf-Kerbala and Gnamas, Um Shawreel roads; al-Zubaidiat-Muheit-Ain Tamr-Kifl-Imam Zeid road, the road from Kirkuk to Arbil, Kirkuk-Baghdad road, Arbil-Shaqlawa, Fillu-

ja-Amiriya roads, the new Badosh road, Hit-Kibaisa road, Amal Sha'bi-Omar Khana road in Diyala province, Abi Haida- Abi Saba' road, Saluei-Tikrit-al-Alam al-Fatha-Bilad roads in Saladdin Province.

In Suleimaniya, the Sir-chinar intersection road was linked with the road approaches to Suleimaniya city, the road from Abbas-siya to Zab river, the second lane of Zakho-Ibrahim Khalil road, the Rumaila-Safwan road, the Sumaira-Hilla-Sabreen road.

Other projects completed were several expressways bridges and approaches to bridges, including Khalidiya,

Dubaisiya bridges in Najaf province, the bridge linking Hit-Kubaisi road.

In 1986 the Ministry built 4,996 housing units including 1,694 in Baghdad City, 135 in Khanaqin, the first phase of housing complex on Euphrates river in New Ana which comprises 1,600 residential units and public service buildings; 500 residential units and public service

buildings in Rawa, 358 flats in Diwaniya, 710 prefabricated flats in Kerbala including public service buildings for clothes factory in Basra province.

The Minister added that several buildings were built for Popular Army, agricultural institutes and swimming pools.

Projects nearing completion include the institute for medical professions, a hospital for children, the eight and ninth phase of Baghdad University campus in Jadiriya.

As to water and sewerage projects, the Ministry implemented the Diwaniya water treatment plant which has a capacity of 20 million gallons of water each day; the second phase of Karkh drinking water project, which will have a capacity of 100 million gallons of water each day. This excludes the projects implemented by Water and Sewerage Contracts Company such as the Najaf water treatment plant, phase B of Karkh water plant in 7th of Nissan (April) district, Rustamiya and Karkh sewerage systems, Rashidiya, Balad and Dujail water treatment plants.

/12828

CSO: 4400/103

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS COMPLETED IN VARIOUS GOVERNORATES

Housing, Health Projects in Dahuk

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 31 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

Duhok, December 30, INA

A number of housing, service and health projects at a total cost of ID 35 million were implemented in Dohuk province in 1986.

The projects included a 400 bed seven-storey hospital, a 100-bed hospital and four medical centres in Zakho, 30 flats for medical staff in the province, an Islamic secondary school for girls and 10 primary schools, each comprising six to 24

classes, and a sports stadium.

The projects, implemented by the Local Administration and Municipality Department, included two popular handicrafts markets in Duhok city and Amadiya town, a slaughter-house in Zakho, a customs house in Ibrahim Al Khalil district, a swimming pool in Duhok city and a building for the Municipality and Labour Departments.

A total of 50 km, long highways were paved, among which are the Zakho-Ibrahim Al-Khalil road and the second lane of the Duhok's entrance.

The projects which are nearing completion include the pavement of some internal roads, the expansion of sewerage and drinking water networks, and building 10 schools, residential units and buildings for government departments in various districts.

Service Projects in al-Ta'mim

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 4 Jan 87 p 2

[Article by Sabah J. Abdui-Ahad]

[Text]

Housing, construction, water and sewerage systems, school buildings tops the services rendered by the Ministry of Local Government through 1986.

In this particular year, the Ministry distributed a total

of 27,436 plots of land for the limited income people all over the country.

Large sums of money have been allocated for the Ministry's departments and municipalities in the provinces. Primary, intermediate and

secondary schools, health centres, students halls of residence, kindergartens and youth centres were accordingly implemented.

Several laws enacted by the Revolution have further enhanced the educational

process and yielded improved standards of pupils' knowledge.

Compulsory education law has led to the increase in the number of pupils attending primary and intermediate schools. Consequently, the Ministry embarked on constructing 146 schools in 1986 in different sizes that were distributed over fifteen provinces.

The Ministry, furthermore, had completed 70 intermediate and secondary schools equipped with laboratories and other up-to-date

teaching tools in fourteen provinces.

Regarding the other services, the Ministry had carried out 16 students' hall of residence in seven provinces that host universities and higher institutes. Besides, thirty three youth centres and four stadiums have also been implemented.

The Ministry has also implemented 47 kindergartens distributed over 11 provinces in addition to restoring many schools and buildings.

The total cost of the projects implemented by the

Ministry according to the 1986 plan was ID 209 millions.

The Water and Sewerage Authority of the Ministry has implemented 14 water treatment projects over the last year at a cost of ID 120,850. Another 129 water treatment plants at a cost ID 948,580 are still underway.

The Municipalities Department has also carried out a number of service projects with a total cost of ID 2,672,000 such as paving the roads, constructing amusement towns and luna-parks.

Education, Service Projects in Maysan

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 5 Jan 87 p 2

[Text] A number of education and service projects were implemented in Meisan province at a total cost of ID 35 million.

The projects included 17 schools, nine potable water complexes each with a capacity of nine million gallons and a 48 km-long water pipes network to supply some villages of the province with potable water. A nursery and a provincial office buildings were also constructed.

Local Government Ministry Projects

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 4 Jan 87 p 2

[Text]

Kirkuk, January 3 INA

Various service projects were implemented in Tameem province at a total cost of ID.87 millions, while work has already started on a number of other vital projects at a total cost of ID. 89,550,000.

A source in the Mayor's Office said that In the city of Kirkuk, the Saddam General Hospital with 400 beds, six primary

schools, an olympic swimming pool, a hostel for the agricultural secondary schools' students and a forage factory were implemented throughout 1986.

Many phases of the gigantic Saddam irrigation project were likewise executed. The project is expected to irrigate one million donums (1

Donum 2,500 sq.m.) of highly fertile lands in the provinces of Saladdin, Tameem and Diyala. A network of

main roads of a total length of 103 km and a fourth bridge in Kirkuk were implemented. The roads link the province with Baghdad, Arbil and Tikrit.

The municipality of Kirkuk also paved a total length of 73 km of roads.

During 1986, the water projects of Yarwali and Shwan districts were improved and a water complex was implemented in Kirkuk.

The Electricity Department in the province illuminated a total length of 210 km of streets and supplied power to some 60 Villages.

165 km of rivers and basic drainage projects were dredged. Some 924,100 donums were cultivated, exceeding the 899,355-donums-plan-set for 1986.

The projects which were started in 1986 -but not yet completed- include Kirkuk central water project with a capacity of 75 million gallons, a stadium, and a 157 km long network of roads.

/9274

CSO: 4400/106

WATER PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 20 Dec 86 p 2

[Article by Sabah J. Abdul Ahad]

[Text] The Water and Sewerage Authority of the Ministry of Local Government has implemented some 279 major water treatment projects during the past six years, with a total capacity of 632 million cubic meters of drinking water a year. This excludes the 1,050 temporary automatic water treatment units installed in the villages and some densely-populated city centres.

A spokesman in the Ministry of Local Government said that accelerated measures were taken during the last six years to provide drinking water to all Iraqi provinces.

Drinking water from 1980 to 1985 sharply increased by 224%. In 1980, about 523 million cubic metres of drinking water was produced. This rose to 1,171 million cubic meters in 1986 produced by all the water treatment plants.

In the meanwhile, the Baladrouz (district) Water treatment Project in Diyala

province, is nearing completion. It will supply 9,240 cu.m. of water a day to Baladruz and 19 surrounding villages. The second stage of the 5.8 km long network of water pipes in Baquba city and the third stage of 61 km long Kanan (suburb of Diyala) network of water pipes were recently implemented.

In Wasit Province, the Hay's 90 km, long water pipes network has also been finished. The 124 km long Shamma'iya village network has been implemented in Qadisiya province. Fifteen water treatment plants in Basra Province were also installed.

In Babylon Province, the new Hilla Water Project is being built. It will have a capacity of 139,700 cubic metres a day to serve Hilla city and some of its districts. The plant covers an area of 132,000 square metres. It has six pumping stations to draw water from Hilla river with a capacity of 1,635 cubic metres an hour each.

IRBIL PLANS FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 21 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

The second annual agricultural conference started in Arbil city today.

During the three-day conference, eight committees were formed to discuss the agricultural plans prepared by the district agricultural conference.

The participants also studied the obstacles facing the execution of the 1986 plan.

Secretary of the Agriculture Administration of the Kurdish Autonomy Region and the Deputy Mayor of Arbil, attended the conference.

On Friday, Meisan and Dohouk Provinces also held their annual conferences.

During the concluding session of Meisan's conference, the participants discussed the plans proposed by the agriculture committees.

The 1987 summer plan covering the utilization of 74,968 donums and the 1987-1988 plan, covering some 244,375 donums were approved.

The conference took a number of decisions to encourage the campaign to fertilize farm lands and recommended expansion in cultivating wheat, barley and

maize, and setting up water regulators in the districts of Majar, Meimouna and Salam. Likewise, extensive

field surveys are to be carried out with the object of defining fertilizers' adequacy to the lands.

Participants in the Dohouk agriculture conference discussed its 1987 plan which encourages the cultivation of grains and the utilization of modern machinery to increase and improve production.

The conference decided to cultivate a total of 14,790 donums with various summer crops. The winter crops will be cultivated on a total area of 208,895 donums.

The plan recommended by the conference also includes breeding 2,084,000 chickens which are expected to yield 2,540 tons of white meat.

Insecticide and weed combating services are to cover 286,280 donums of agricultural land.

Moreover, 12 artesian wells are expected to be dug in 1987.

MAJOR BAGHDAD BRIDGE COMPLETED

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 3 Jan 87 p 6

[Text]

The approaches of Ramadhan-14 Bridge scheduled to be inaugurated soon are among the outstanding construction projects built in Baghdad recently.

The Ramadhan-14 Bridge itself was opened for traffic on July 17, 1984 while construction of its approaches continued over the last two years.

According to the designs drawn up by engineers of the Bridge Construction Department, an affiliate of the Ministry of Construction and Housing, the bridge should have approaches on both sides that link it with the road network in Adhamiya (East Side) and Karkh (West Side).

Mr Ismail Ibrahim Al-Bay'a, Director General of the Bridge Construction Department told *The Baghdad Observer* that both the bridge and its approaches were parts of the overall road network scheduled to be built in Baghdad to facilitate traffic in this city.

According to the Master Plan of Baghdad these approaches would be linked with the express ringed-road that encircles the city and leads to the main highways.

Mr Al-Bay'a explained that the need arose for the construction of the bridge after expansion in the area and because of bottlenecks caused by increasing traffic in Adhamiya and Kadhimiya on both banks of Tigris River.

The whole project was divided into three phases. The first, the bridge itself which ended in 1984. The second phase was the construction of the approaches in the Karkh, which has also been completed. The third phase includes the construction of a ramp that links the bridge with Mohammed Al-Qassim expressway.

This simply means that commuters and drivers will have fast and easy access to both sides of the city without taking the trouble of crossing through the heavy traffic in the city centre.

The construction work of the project took two years. It started on December 1984 and was completed on November 30, 1986. A French company was awarded the contract but the whole work was done under the supervision of Iraqi personnel.

The designed load capac-

ity of the ramps is 22.5 tons. The ramp is 1,250m long and 22m-47m wide with sideways for pedestrians (2m wide in each side of the road).

As part of the project, the July 14 Street was diverted and expanded to accommodate the increasing traffic in the area. The street now has six lanes. Each lane is 12m wide, quite enough, as planners believe, to cope with the heavy traffic to and from Kadhimiya and Hurriya, two main neighbourhoods to benefit from the project.

A long-term plan is currently being implemented to link the Ramadhan 14 Bridge and its approaches with Abu Ghraib Expressway, which is under construction. When that is done, a fast and jam-free expressway will link Abu Ghraib (northwest of Baghdad) with Mohammed Al-Qassim expressway and subsequently with the main Baghdad-Basra highway.

In addition to construction work, the Department has plans to develop some green areas at the site of the project and on both sides of the approaches. These include small parks and water fountains around the giant concrete project.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS SECRETARY--The National Assembly (Parliament) today elected a new Secretary and resumed debate on a Bill on the utilization of river banks. Members of the Assembly yesterday had agreed in principle on the Bill. Four out of 12 articles of the Bill have been approved in the session which was attended by the Minister of Irrigation, Mr Abdul Wahab Mahmoud. The Bill regulates the utilization of areas adjacent to rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Next Saturday the National Assembly will continue the debate on the Bill. The Assembly elected Dr Dawood al-Dabbagh, member of the Legal and Administration Committee as its new Secretary following the resignation of Mr Abdul Qadir Abdul Razzaq al-Janabi for health reasons. Dr al-Dabbagh was unanimously elected in a secret ballot. The session was also attended by chairman and members of the Kerbala Central People's Council. [Text][Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 16 Dec 86 p 2][Article by Clela Khoshaba]/12828

AL-SULAYMANIYAH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS--A number of projects were completed in Suleimaniya province this year at the cost of ID13,411,00. The completed projects include buildings for a health professions institute, a high school, an Islamic institute, two secondary schools, and one students hall of residence. Buildings for a court house, a library, 19 houses and three housing complexes each consisting of 27 flats, for workers were also completed. The authorities concerned at the province also completed the construction of a tourist hotel at Dokan town which consists of 68 rooms, four suites, a swimming pool and 34 cabins. Some roads were also paved while others were repaved. In agriculture some 2,333 donums of farm land were leased to 118 farmers. The authorities also built some hatcheries and fish breeding ponds and dug 15 artesian wells. They also cleared and lined streamlets of a total length of 20 kilometres. In the meanwhile work is underway to complete a number of other industrial, educational, agricultural and public service projects in the province. They include the paving of the second 45 kilometre long lane of Suleimaniya-Ta'meen highway, the construction of school buildings, sewerage and water projects. [Text][Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 27 Dec 86 p 2]/12828

CSO: 4400/103

SOUTH YEMEN SEEKS BETTER RELATIONS

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Dec 86 p 4

[Text]

THE visiting Deputy Premier of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Saleh Abu Bakr Bin Hesenoun yesterday evening said that his visit to Kuwait comes within the framework of visits exchanged by officials of the two countries based on continuous cooperation and joint stances.

Hesenoun, who is also Energy and Minerals Minister and member of the Socialist Party's Central Committee, stated that his talks with senior Kuwaiti officials aim at enhancing and developing bilateral ties in various spheres.

During his visit, the Democratic Yemen official will deliver a message to His Highness the Amir from President Haidar

Abu Bakr Al Attas dealing with bilateral relations and means of boosting them, as well as the current situation on the Arab and international arenas aiming at enhancing solidarity to counter the imperialist offensive against the Arab region, Hesenoun said.

Gratitude

Expressing his country's gratitude for Kuwait's stances towards the Arab and Islamic causes, Hesenoun voiced Democratic Yemen's deep appreciation for the efforts exerted by Kuwait seeking the unification of Arab ranks and by hosting the forthcoming Islamic summit conference due to convene next month.

Counting on his visit to Kuwait to further develop bilateral relations, he indicated that it (the visit) will open more spheres in the interest of peoples of the two countries.

/9274
CSO: 4400/104

EXPROPRIATION LAW SEEKS TO STIMULATE ECONOMY

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Dec 86 p 4

[Text]

KUWAIT's State Minister for Municipal Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Ghunaim has said the main objective of the Expropriation Law was to reactivate the country's economy by allowing more money to flow into the market.

The minister told Kuna the law would help settle the problem of real-estate oversupply and allow credit institutions to collect arrears from debtors, which would eventually reactivate the stock market.

The government's KD 600-million expropriation project has been tailored to ensure real-estate owners of fair evaluation of property. An Evaluation Committee is to be appointed by the government with the approval of the Municipal Council, Al Ghunaim said.

The value of property would be paid partly in cash, while the rest would be settled in government bonds, he said.

The minister said that a benefactor still has the right to ask for a lump sum as compensation, or to exchange his property for a government-owned one.

The Evaluation Committee, he said, would act under legal directives taking into account market conditions, completing procedures in the shortest possible time.

Stressing that the real-estate market is one of the pillars of the Kuwaiti economy, Al Ghunaim said that the Expropriation Law basically stemmed from the need to remedy "the country's economic stagnation which has dragged on for a number of years."

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CSO: 4400/104

SOUTH KOREAN TANKERS TO BE PURCHASED

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

KUWAIT will buy six oil-products carriers from a South Korean shipbuilding company for \$132 million, the chairman of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tankers Co. announced yesterday.

The chairman, Abdul-Fatah Al Badr, told reporters that the purchase contract with the company, Samsung, would be signed in Kuwait in the first week of 1987.

He said the six vessels, which will join the KOTC's fleet in the second half of 1988, would help cope with Kuwait's need to export more processed oil derivatives following the modernization of the country's four refineries.

Cost

The modernization process, which reportedly cost more than \$2 billion, is expected to raise the amount of crude oil processed and refined locally to more than 500,000 barrels a day.

The figure compares with a present capacity of about 300,000 barrels, according to oil industry sources.

This means that more than half of Kuwait's crude oil production will be refined locally, lessening Kuwait's dependence on foreign demand for oil and increasing the country's immunity against outside fluctuations, added the sources, who spoke on condition they not be named.

"The new vessels will be designed in such a fashion that suits the needs of the Kuwaiti Oil Cor-

poration in marketing Kuwait oil products at international ports at competitive prices, enabling us to undercut others," Al Badr said.

"We also want to fulfil our commitments toward consumers in Europe where we have a large number of filling stations and other downstream installations," he said.

Acquire

The KOTC chairman said Kuwait would be the first country to acquire tankers with such characteristics, but he did not give the specifics.

The Kuwait Petroleum Corp., which groups oil companies and the KOTC, owns two refineries in Europe with a total capacity of 200,000 barrels a day and more than 3,000 gas filling stations in the Benelux and Scandinavian countries.

The KOTC fleet of 21 oil tankers and products carriers has a combined capacity of 2.5 million tons, and transports about 70 percent of Kuwait's oil and derivatives.

The six new vessels comprise two of 120,000-ton capacity and four of 35,000 tons.

Al Badr emphasized that operations of the company's fleet are not affected by the changing quota of Kuwait's oil production within the Opec ceiling, emphasizing that the international demand on the Kuwaiti tankers is on the rise as a result of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the damage caused to many tankers by air raids.

MARKET TO BE OPENED TO FOREIGNERS

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Dec 86 p 10

[Text]

KUWAIT's stock market, once in the top 10 in the world before a dramatic crash in 1982, is booming again as it prepares to open its doors to foreigners.

"We've seen a lot of new faces lately," said one official of the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

The eight-storey granite monolith, planned in the 1982 boom but opened with little fanfare two years ago, boasts a trading floor as large as that of the London Stock Exchange.

Price changes are flashed on scores of screens in brokers' offices and investor lounges via a \$10-million computer.

But not everyone trusts this modern technology. Men in chequered headgear and flowing robes use binoculars from the public gallery to track price movements chalked onto the big white boards which record all deals.

Prices

With prices shooting up, the exchange has unveiled plans to let foreign companies, in addition to Gulf-based firms, list shares inquiries have come from as far as London and Tokyo.

The liberalisation, which will allow foreigners to buy stock in Kuwaiti companies, is one of several measures aimed at rejuvenating the market after the 1982 disastrous slide.

The Kuwait exchange was once on a par with well-established centres such as Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam, ranking eighth in the world in terms of annual trading values.

ABU-AL-ZA'IM SPEAKS AT LENGTH ON PLO AFFAIRS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 2 Dec 86 pp 19-28

[Interview with Abu-al-Za'im by Fu'ad Matar: "There Is a Flaw In The Leadership and My Aim is to Correct the Course"; in Amman, 27 October 1986]

[Text] - The Palestinian does not commit treason and I do not accuse Yasir 'Arafat of being a traitor. What we did was to correct the course and discuss the mistakes we committed in the process.

- Abu 'Ammar asked me to go to Egypt to propose to President Mubarak that he replace the government and bring in members from the opposition in order to stabilize the situation in Egypt so that we may visit it, but I defied his order because I viewed it as a departure from the leadership ethics of any people on earth for I cannot dictate to Egypt this change. We later found that Abu 'Ammar had gone to Egypt to announce a halt to terrorism.

In contemporary Arab political history, military coup d'etats used to be the outstanding feature. Coups are of two kinds: a successful and enduring one that employs suppression and liquidations before settling down, and a short-lived one due to a lack of a minimum level of political prudence, an indispensable quality.

Besides coups, what came to be known as "the corrective movement" also took place. Perhaps the initiators of these movements wanted to imply that they were not coup d'etat advocates, out of their realization that people reject coups and coup advocates and that the credibility of change via coup d'etats is virtually non-existent.

The name, however, does not invalidate the basic truth that "corrective movements" are coup situations.

In the course of Palestinian action, many schisms have occurred and organizations have splintered. It is the first time, however, that a "corrective movement" has taken place. We are talking about that sudden and rather unexpected coup situation undertaken by Abu-al-Za'im who used to maintain more than normal relations with Yasir 'Arafat, so much so that when Abu-al-Za'im dissented from 'Arafat's line and leadership, he raised

consternation, surprise and question marks, not to mention that some likened such dissension to the poet's saying:

- I taught him how to shoot every day
- And when he became strong he shot me.

How strong does Abu-al-Za'im seem to be, how far has aggravation gone and will the situation created by Abu-al-Za'im be faster than lightening that disappears in a flash?

For a clear answer to these questions that are on the minds of ordinary Palestinians still living in camps or bourgeois Palestinians whose elegant villas are scattered over the plush neighborhoods of Amman's highlands and seven hills, I looked in Amman for Abu-al-Za'im. And, since he who asks, especially journalists like ourselves, does not get lost, I found out where Abu-al-Za'im had settled down in Amman. I called for a meeting and next day I was at Abu-al-Za'im's headquarters where the following interview took place.

Flanked by Husayn 'Uwaydah, the information officer and a Palestinian pilot, I said: "This encounter could be just a courtesy call to an old friend we knew in Beirut, Tunis and Cairo, or could evolve into a press interview in which matters could be candidly broached, including many people's disapproval, not only of your abandonment of a friend in hard times, Abu 'Ammar, but also because you are leading a campaign against him as though the shockwaves and repulsion being experienced by the Palestinian revolution are not enough to make one stop and think."

Abu-al-Za'im seemed ready to answer any and all questions. In the face of this readiness, I said: "People entering your corrective movement's offices notice that right in the center of the office, a photo of King Husayn is hanging right next to your photo. Is that due to the fact that the movement is located in Jordan, in the sense that if it were in another country you would have hung the photo of that country's ruler, or is it related to considerations pertaining to the movement's core, orientation and strategy?"

[Answer] Allow me first to reply to the preface before the question. If it is a protocol visit, we are proud of it. Every hour we spend with brother Fu'ad is beneficial to us. We benefit from his good experience and he is a close and dear friend. Therefore, we will be happy if the visit should take this direction.

We will be happier if it should assume the nature of an interview because we are interested in making our true voice heard without beating about the bush. For, if there is a work priority or glaring criticism, we feel it is our responsibility to correct in our movement, it is beating about the bush in our action which has lost its meaning and is refuted by our Arab and Palestinian people, by our entire Arab nation and even by all the countries of the world and many world officials. For we began, at certain moments, to lose our credibility. This is an affront to our people and our cause.

Interview with you will be similar to the ones with those who publish our point of view: truthful and heart to heart and without any equivocation.

With regard to your question, you may be right. I do not see in it, however, any elements of a political dimension for one reason which is that we are not in my private office where I only have a photo of Jerusalem and the Palestinian flag. Outside the office halls, however, any PLO office must have the photo of the head of state as a courtesy to the head of the state in which we reside. In Jordan, the situation is different because we consider ourselves Palestinians and Jordanians, partners in blood and in destiny. This partnership is not whimsical nor is it one between a ruler and an official, a king and a head of an organization or a prime minister and the leadership of an organization. Rather, it is a partnership of true destiny between one people living east and west of the river. Those living west of the river have their own private affairs, even though the battle is national because we believe that the clear and meticulous crystallization of the Palestinian personality and the preservation of the Palestinian identity are a basic requirement for which this organization is striving more than the PLO itself. Therefore, our top priority in our action is the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We are fighting on the basis of this principle and we are dying for it, for we believe that the Palestinian identity is embodied in this organization, hence the presence of this photo signifies reverence to the country that has honored us on its soil as leaders of a movement and leaders of an organization. But, if we go back to the history, roots and the popular and crucial ties binding the two peoples, we find that King Husayn and Jordan are not strangers to the Palestinian people and the Palestinians are not strangers to Jordan.

[Question] When we heard that you formed a movement you called a "corrective movement," we were gripped by two kinds of feelings. The first was how could Abu-al-Za'im do this in view of his very special relationship with his friend Abu 'Ammar? The second was that the movement had occurred and many things needed to be explained in the sense of why did it happen at this particular time and did the Palestinian ranks need more division and splintering?

[Answer] I had a very strong relationship with Mr Yasir 'Arafat and, at the personal level, I still think of him as a very close friend, away from the compass of mistakes, struggle action and national action.

No doubt Yasir 'Arafat has struggled. A few days ago in a rally in the Nizal quarter of Amman, attended by close to 5,000 people, I said: "The Palestinian does not commit treason and I do not accuse Yasir 'Arafat of treason. Let no Palestinian entertain the thought that at any time a Palestinian leadership may commit treason. This is alien to Palestinian ethics and conduct because Palestinians have great love for their country and have experienced great suffering and are scrupulous in dealing with their brothers. I am proud of any relationship I had with brother Yasir 'Arafat. When we look deep into the matter, however, we find facts that constitute the quintessence of this issue.

First, when we initiated this movement, our aim was not to create a splinter or schism or a separation or a new organization to be added to the long series

of organizations that have been weighing heavily on the Palestinian people without yielding any benefit whatsoever.

When we initiated this movement, which we do not like to call "corrective," in the sense of an organization, we did so on a democratic basis aimed at rectifying the process and discussing all the mistakes of our Palestinian march from the time the Zionist enemy, during the 1897 first "PAL" conference thought to establish a "national" homeland on our Palestinian soil up to this day: the outcome of the Palestinian struggle, its cost to the Palestinians, how they faced conspiracies, how they fought, what kind of Arab relations they had, what kind of international relations they had, how they were subjected to the ordeal and how they resisted the Jews who were characterized by high intellect, awareness and education. I have said in many rallies that at a time when the Jewish people gave birth to Marx, Einstein and others, then came Chaim Weizman, Ben Gurion, the Jewish Agency and the leaders of Zionism, our Palestinian people were helpless, resisting with "Abu Muhammad" and "Abu Mahmud." This is not to belittle the Palestinian people, but it is the truth: a poor simple people facing grave international conspiracies and determining their fate from outside their borders and falling victim to these very same things.

Thus emerged our idea to undertake a democratic initiative through Fatah first, the principal organization leading Palestinian action, whether people like it or not, and the backbone of armed struggle and the general popular current that backs it; through the PLO, the political entity and the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and through the Palestinian people whom we consider the true beneficiaries. Without them we would not have had an organization, we would not have had leaderships and we would not have had a cause.

Hence, we say there is a land and a people and a cause, there is a leadership, there are organizations and there are practices. All these pieces put together constitute the meaning of the Palestinian reality which needs to be dissected. From 1927 to 1947, the Palestinians lost the first part of Palestine, not to speak of the conspiracies hatched against our people. From 1947 to 1967, we lost the rest. This revolution erupted and all the Palestinians believed in it, giving it their all: blood, suffering, homelessness, perseverance. the rifle, displacement, camps brought down over their heads and all the sacrifices offered by one people in the world. No other people in the world have given as much as the Palestinians. Starting with 1967 and here we are at the threshold of 1987, we find ourselves going beyond the realm of reason and time, displaced even outside the Arab nation, not to say outside the belt countries [surrounding Palestine]. We have in fact lost our ability to act save for the fact that we are merely a so-called legitimate leadership no different from the Higher Arab Organization, its predecessor in the Palestinian people's history, which still maintains offices in Amman, Saudi Arabia, Beirut and many other countries and still considers itself, in its capacity as a higher Arab body, responsible for the Palestinian struggle. I notice, day after day, that the PLO leadership will end up like this organization because I do not see, be it in Sudan, Algeria or the end of the earth, that it has any contact with its people or is in touch with the Palestinian people's national action. Rather, it is merely an organization

following political activity in the world, issuing a statement here and a statement there, commenting on the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and the anniversary of partition, hearing about a terrorist operation and either approving of it or expressing an opinion on it, while the only more active political initiative is the Arab and international sympathy we have inherited with the PLO in the last few years.

Accordingly, our judgment was that a stand to correct the course of the entire cause had to be taken: Where have we been and where are we going? How much have we paid and how much have we recieved? Where is this action taking us?

Organizations are dominating and exploiting the Palestinian people who are the true beneficiaries, the legitimate representative of themselves, their people and anything related to their destiny and the rightful holders of the right to choose their destiny. The PLO was set up in 1964 during the time of al-Shuqayri by an Arab League resolution. This organization has been in existence up to this day. In 1967, the occupied Arab land in Jordan, Golan and Sinai fell and organizations came into existence and began assuming a role and a magnitude in the armed struggle and dominated the scene by virtue of the Arab people's rejection of defeat, led by the Palestinian people. The entire Arab nation rejected defeat and carried the rifle, calling for a battle. So what happened?

In 1969 the organizations merged into the PLO which was headed by Yahya Hammudah who succeeded al-Shuqayri and agreed that a certain small percentage of PNC seats would go to the organizations and the remainder would be for independents, namely the Palestinian people. What happened was that a quota system was instituted overnight whereby the independents were distributed over the organizations: 10 for this, 15 for that, 50 for this and 60 for that, from outside the organizations' share. The Popular Front took in its share of independents and Fatah took in its share of the so-called independents until the color of the Palestinian people's real independence faded from this council which turned into a council of organizations. Hence, the council never agreed on anything except the word "no" whenever the organization's leadership came to submit a plan. We have submitted several plans, including the Fez plan, drafted by the brothers themselves. I have read this plan and no one can deny that. The initial Fez plan was drafted by Salah Khalaf, Faruq al-Qaddumi and Khalid al-Hasan, reviewed by Walid al-Khalidi and Basil 'Aql, and presented to Saudi Arabia. When in the Fez conference it was submitted to the foreign ministers, an Arab foreign minister said in derision that that was treason and Abu-al-Lutf, who drafted the plan, retorted: "yes, this is treason," thus compelling Prince Sa'ud Faysal to stand up and say: "if treason has been committed, it was on the part of those who drafted and submitted the plan and not those who adopted it because this, dear brothers, is your plan." The Fez summit failed and did not come out with much with regard to plans submitted and fully backed by the organization, such as the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

Following our departure from Damascus and in the wake of the split between Abu Musa and his group and the Tripoli and al-Biqa' events, and following Abu 'Ammar's departure aboard a ship, leaving behind everything we had in

Lebanon--we had left Beirut already--we found ourselves proceeding without a plan. We made the decision to convene the PNC in Jordan to put our political house in order and the people arrived at a written agreement signed between the head of the PLO and King Husayn, an agreement that won the approval of the Shura Council and the Central Council and ratified by all the PLO institutions. Suddenly, and following one year of discussions and give and take, we found ourselves unable to implement the agreement. I reject Abu 'Ammar's contention that he is against this agreement because, up till now, he has not said that he is against it and that it is harmful to the rights of Palestinians. There is a flaw in leadership, something of which we must be aware. The decision-making process is flawed. I ask you to bear this word in mind. There is a flaw in the Palestinian decision-making process. You know that some organizations have states and some have parties, including Fatah that leads Palestinian action. Perhaps you are more up to date than I am on public and announced stances. In Israel, we find the Likud and the Labor Party and we find Peres and Shamir alternating power and when they agree on a plan, they stick to it. When Sharon gets "out of line" with the prime minister, he is brought to account and removed from his post. When Moda'i causes the least bit of trouble, the prime minister has authority over him, even though he belongs to another party. We, however, have no authority over any executive committee member from another organization. More than that, Abu 'Ammar cannot have authority over Abu-al-Lutf, and he and Abu-al-Lutf, the head of the political department and a founding member with Abu 'Ammar, contradict one another, one saying one thing and the other saying the complete opposite. Khalid al-Hasan has an opinion, Salah Khalaf has an opinion, Abu Mazin has an opinion and Abu Mahir has an opinion. Some see in Syria democracy and some of the organizations national unity and some see in Jordan and the implementation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement national unity.

This leadership has many contradictions. I say show me one balanced decision issued by this leadership. All are "conciliatory" decisions to avert an outburst in the council, an outburst in the executive committee, and an outburst in the Fatah central committee.

Hence, my diary with Yasir 'Arafat. Perhaps he remembers. I do not wish one to bring up positions. When His Majesty King Fahd visited Algeria to meet with President Chedli in Abu 'Ammar's presence, the matter revolved around whether or not we should go to Cairo. I think King Fahd and President Chedli offered moral support to Yasir 'Arafat. We saw in Syria a progressive country and we saw in Saudi Arabia a country capable of putting the Arabs' affairs in order. We said: These two countries, if they stood behind us, we would achieve much, and they actually did. Then I was surprised by Yasir 'Arafat asking me to go to Egypt to propose to President Husni Mubarak that he replace the government and bring in members from the opposition to stabilize the situation in Egypt so that 'Arafat may visit it. I defied his order because I viewed it as a departure from the leadership ethics of any people in the world. I cannot impose on Egypt such a change.. A while later, we saw him visiting Cairo.

[Question] This point in particular may need elucidation by Abu-al-Za'im. On what premises was the government to be changed?

[Answer] So that Abu 'Ammar could visit Cairo at his ease and without embarrassment on grounds that the Egyptian government included the opposition, a kind of attempt to appease the organizations by playing on the divisions and contradictions within the Egyptian people. This is unfortunate.

[Question] Was this attempt undertaken out of conviction?

[Answer] Yes, I think he informed the Egyptians through someone else because I refused. The Egyptians became frantic. Then he went to Egypt and announced a halt to operations and to terrorism. He told President Mubarak what I had said in many press interviews: "We, as a Palestinian leadership, brother Abu 'Ammar, when you come to Jordan, what does Jordan have other than Resolution 242? King Husayn was clear with us, saying: 'I only have 242 and you, the representatives of the legitimate Palestinian people refuse to recognize it and this is Kissinger's game. We, who recognize the resolution, do not have the right of representation. So let us all reunite because we have no desire to go it alone. Some people are protesting and some have the right of representation, so perhaps we can come out with something.'" King Husayn added: "You, Abu 'Ammar, since 1983, you have drafted with me an agreement which you almost signed, then you went to Kuwait and did not return. If there is something within your leadership..." Abu 'Ammar replied: "I am upset with Abu-al-Lutf and Salah Khalaf and I will send them to you, Your Majesty, to talk with them." Sure enough, Salah Khalaf and Faruq al-Qaddumi came--this was prior to the PNC--and agreed with the king that the PNC would convene, that they would enter into serious negotiations and that they would accept 242. The king confirmed all of this to us personally in the PNC. I said at the time, and my words are recorded on video, that the PNC was discussing everything except one basic issue, what the king had raised with us, and we should be men enough to debate with him with the same candor because we are revolutionaries and must stand by our cause like men. If some of what the king had to say is disturbing, we must tell him, "Your Majesty, we cannot carry out your proposal," and if there is a possibility, we must express our opinion openly and I propose the following: that a meeting be held between the Palestinian and Jordanian leadership, on video, to put our cards on the table and debate every word and every letter. Should we find anything that might be of any national use to us, we would adopt it; otherwise, we decline. I would like to say something. I do not engage in the numbers game so as not to give people a chance to say a PNC member had recognized a certain resolution. I said if a solution existed that would return the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem and we rejected it, we would have deviated from our national councils because our Palestinian national councils call for the establishment of a Palestinian entity on every inch we get back from the enemy. Why are we afraid to discuss this? The subject was in fact debated and a Jordanian-Palestinian committee was formed to draft a number of papers and agreements until it got to the final agreement signed on 11 February 1985.

Hence, I sense a contradiction in leadership and I sense Arab massacres the leadership has brought on us: from the September massacres to the massacres with the Syrians when we sought to prevent the Syrian forces from coming in to impose law and order in accordance with an Arab League resolution as an Arab deterrent force, to incite people against the Maronites and to fight and

isolate the Maronites, only to see shortly thereafter that Yasir 'Arafat had forged an alliance with the Maronites against the Shiites who had embraced him for 10 or 15 years and had offered him their villages and given us everything they could. So why unleash a dispute between us and the Shiites? Why? Is it because the Shiite wants to kill the Palestinian? This is not so. Is it because the Palestinian is bent on killing the Shiite? This is not so. These people helped us fight the Beirut seige, they help us fight the Maronites and the isolationists, as they called them. They helped us fight all the battles of this revolution. Why then are these things happening in Lebanon? Because of a leadership that is looking for blood, a leadership that is after newspaper headlines, no matter whose blood it is, be it with a Syrian or a Jordanian, with a Shiite, with a Sunni or with a Druze. It does not make any difference so long as blood is shed so that this leadership may go on because its survival depends on Palestinian blood. Should Palestinian blood be spared, this leadership would fall because it has no political argument it can offer and no military power to fight deep in army territory. Therefore, we began, day after day, to feel that our struggle was turning from an Israeli one to an Arab one. We saw someone like Hannah Senora, the official spokesman of Yasir 'Arafat in the occupied land, bluntly and publicly calling for a confederation with Israel while, in the meantime, the wars between us as Arab tribes are exposing Palestinians to Arab hostilities. The Palestinians are suspect all over the globe. One time they are accused of terrorism and another time of being Arab murderers. I do not deny the conspiracies against the Palestinian people from all directions, with Arab participation in some cases. I do not deny this. I would like to say, however, that the official leadership is the one that must deal with conspiracies rationally. A car driver is not only responsible for his mistake, but for the mistakes of others as well. The leadership must learn how to be composed and how to take all factors and calculations into account. The Arab people have never begrudged the Palestinian cause anything. They have given it much and you know how we were received in Lebanon during "al-Jamal's" funeral and how the Jordanian people rally around us. Then our causes with peoples emerged. We are not fighting countries now. Now, I am not fighting Amin al-Jumayyil and I am not fighting the commander of the army. Today, I am fighting an Arab citizen just like myself. What is the reason for this fighting? In whose interest is it? Why incite the Palestinians? Even the Arab press makes this mistake by leading people to believe that a massacre is being hatched against the Palestinians. The Palestinians have been wronged and the Lebanese have been wronged, but there is a leadership that has sold joint Palestinian-Lebanese blood.

These are the factors that prompted us to move in this direction.

[Question] Do we understand from this that you are moving toward non-violence or to quash violence altogether?

[Answer] We oppose violence within the Palestinian revolution. We do not force our opinion on anyone. We notice some mistakes. I will talk about financial mistakes. It is inconceivable that 120,000 Palestinian workers should help Israel build settlements on their land, doing all sorts of work, because they cannot find their daily bread. The leadership was planning to discipline them and to teach them a lesson. But had they provided them with

their livelihood, they would not have worked with the Jews. We see that from India, the land of the Indira Ghandi campaign, to Tunis, which they left only yesterday, to Uganda, to Tanzania, to many other countries, hundreds of millions of dollars are being paid out while our Palestinian people are hungry. Palestinian camps in Lebanon have been wiped out by the Israeli invasion. What has the PLO leadership offered to the camps in Lebanon? What has it offered to the camps here in Jordan? What has it offered to the occupied land? What has it done to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

We also see fumbling in the 17th PNC. All organizations in Damascus (Fatah, General Command, PFLP, DFLP and others) were excluded. We decided we had a quorum on the basis that we had the required attendance and that the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and Palestinian presence here was what counted and we applauded this matter. Upon our departure from Jordan, we find that a search was underway for Nayif Hawatmah and Sulayman al-Najjab to forge a national unity with them. Strange this thing! Yesterday, Palestinian action did not need all these organizations and today your union with Abu-al-'Abbas, or with Nayif Hawatimah or with Sulayman al-Najjab will bring about Palestinian national unity!

The truth is that I do not perceive the people of Gaza attacking the people of Janin or the people of Janin occupying Safed or the people of Safed attacking Hebron. The Palestinians are one people and national unity is there. Unity among the parties and the organizations will not be realized because everyone has his own ideology and everyone thinks of himself as a Palestinian leader, so we do not know how Palestine could be restored.

Therefore, we are a movement within the framework of Fatah, the PLO and the Palesinian people aimed at urging the Palestinian people to unite with us to change this bad and gloomy situation that cannot lead us to any decision, thus safeguarding the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and adhering to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement in letter and spirit. If there is a real peace, I am with this peace because the Palestinian people are always being accused of obstructing peace. If there is no peace, I believe that my Palestinian mistake was that I tried, as a Palestinian, to tackle the Palestinian question alone, something I view as independence in decision-making. I say yes to an independent Palestinian decision-making process within a unified Arab action because the Palestinians are unable to bear single-handedly the political and military burden of their cause. I will give an example. If I want to declare a general mobilization in Jordan, can I do it without King Husayn's permission? If I want to declare a Palestinian mobilization in Damascus, can I do it without a Syrian decision? I, in my position, am forced to deal with the Arab states insofar as I need them and inasmuch as they are willing to give me. My duty is not to enter with these Arab countries into sharp contradictions that render me a reckless foolhardy human being unable to do anything. I must reexamine my calculations and must understand international equations; I must understand Arab equations; I must understand the Palestinian reality; and I must understand the spirit of the times. Through all these things put together, I can see where the rain lines are under which I can pass without getting wet. But to deal with things as though they were a farm, this would be unfortunate and would lead me nowhere.

[Question] Does brother Abu-al-Za'im believe that the Palestinian leadership, Yasir 'Arafat in particular, is not moving in this direction?

[Answer] The truth is that I do not see that Yasir 'Arafat has a leadership, and, believe me, I am sorry to say that. But Yasir 'Arafat knows this better than anyone else. Yasir 'Arafat does not have a leadership and had I been convinced that he did have it, I would not have dissented.

[Question] How is that?

[Answer] How is that? Leadership signifies a group of minds gathered around one leader within a democratic framework, implementing a set policy that serves the interests of the people and the cause it represents. I do not see a single Palestinian meeting where any kind of agreement was reached. The PFLP has its own viewpoint on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and Fatah has its own viewpoint on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. The DFLP demands before meeting with it-- and God only knows the size of its membership-- the abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Some organizations, including the Abu Musa group and all those located in Damascus, accuse Yasir 'Arafat of capitulation and do not want him at the head of the PLO. Fatah views Yasir 'Arafat as a dictator, when he is not a dictator. He is a bungling man who is a dictator when it comes to money and appointments, but not in the political decision-making process because he does not have this power. I wish he were a political dictator because our people are in need of a dictator able to impose the people interest on these people. He is a dictator in spending money. He spends alone and does not give them anything. He makes appointments to positions over which he does not fight with Abu-al-Lutf. But Yasir 'Arafat is well aware of that. We have discussed many issues at length and he asked me what was the way out and I said: "communique number one against your central committee."

So far, Abu 'Ammar has been unable to convene a Fatah conference since 1980. Is our departure from Beirut not worthy of a conference? Is the Abu Musa group dissension not worthy of a conference? Is our demand to hold a conference not worthy of a conference? I did not declare my secession and I did not declare my dissension. I too called for a conference so that we may put our cards on the table and decide our course. He has not responded to that since 1980, while the movement's bylaws give me the right to hold a conference biennially. I will hold the conference here in Amman before the beginning of the new year (1987). I have a new base of support. I have all the military who comprise 55 percent of Fatah's leadership and we have a large number of civilian fighters. They are all here. I challenge him to tell me whom he has. Whom does he have: 5 in Sudan and 2 in Tunis from among the media mercenaries who gather around him the like of Nabil 'Amr, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman and al-Mutabbal Hakam Bal'awi. Who is around Yasir 'Arafat? Whom does he have left? We have always been the ones to formulate his political game and all those who are with me have left him. He has become a captive of Salah Khalaf to exploit him any way he wished and this is exactly what Khalaf has done. I am incompatible with Yasir 'Arafat in that I am a man able to express my opinion. He says he is the sole legitimate representative and I say I am the sole legitimate representative. He supports the Jordanian-Palestinian

agreement and I support the agreement. He supports peace and formed a delegation made up of Hannah Seniora and others and I support peace. The problem between him and me is that he is not a leader because he wants to win the confidence of Abu-al-Lutf or Abu Iyad or so and so at the expense of the cause's beneficiaries in matters of which he is convinced. Hence I dissented from leadership to make him realize that the Palestinian people support this trend, but the leader is impotent.

I challenge him to bring anything new to political action. On what do I disagree with Yasir 'Arafat? I adhere to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative. As for Fatah, convene a conference for it to hear what the people have to say. The Palestinian people prefer rallies in al-Buq'ah Camp, the largest Palestinian concentration of 180,000 people. Tomorrow I will hold a rally in al-Husun. Yesterday I was in the Nizal quarter and later in Shinler Camp. I will hold rallies in all the camps. Our people did not come out with horses, banners and drums. Do not believe that. But, unfortunately, if people do not write, it is no shame on me; it is a shame on those who do not write the Palestinian people's viewpoint. No one on earth has been accorded the kind of welcome I received in Palestinian camps. I was riding in a convertible and they came to threaten me for going to the camps. I was in a convertible all the time. I know our people. Yasir 'Arafat supports the PLO and I support the PLO. He supports the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and I support this agreement. My difference with him is that with an impotent and I consider him above plotting.

[Question] It appears therefore that the difference is more with the executive committee members or the Fatah leadership than with Yasir 'Arafat himself?

[Answer] True. This is true. True.

[Question] Do you fault any of these members, one by one?

[Answer] I do not want to hang the dirty laundry out on the roof for this is against my moral beliefs. I find fault in two things:

First, this leadership has not changed Fatah's history in any way. The leadership has remained unchanged "with all its known and hidden faults," to quote Abu 'Ammar. This is truly disgraceful for a people like ours.

Second, this leadership is incompatible. No two members see eye to eye. Every time they meet they fight and then impose on us meaningless resolutions. One group favors Abu 'Ammar, one favors Abu Iyad and one favors Abu so and so. We in Fatah are divided into mini-states. For this situation to persist is a shame. There is supposed to be a leadership to rectify this situation and create one Fatah instead of 500: Fatah with Syria, Fatah with Jordan, Fatah with Lebanon, Fatah with India, Fatah against the Phalange, Fatah with the Phalange. How can this be? When Salah Khalaf concludes an agreement with Amin al-Jumayyil, I do not know in whose name. He cannot impose it on me in the name of Fatah for this is neither Fatah's point of view nor that of the the Sabra and Shatillah elements. What right does he have to sever relations

with this or that government or to engage in terrorism in this or that country?

[Question] The diverse persuasions notwithstanding, the Palestinian revolution year after year evolved into a system. I myself was in a responsible position and took part in this evolution. Therefore, it is natural that we should have a Palestinian system exercising the same things exercised by any other Arab system.

[Answer] And now we are in the process of changing this system for the better. So long as it is a system, we want to change it without violating Palestinian ethics, constants and principles. We want to replace persons and not principles. This is the right of the Palestinian people.

[Question] And does Abu-al-Za'im believe it is that simple?

[Answer] With respect to the Palestinian people, yes. I know the Palestinian people, I know their mentality and I know whom they support.

[Question] Will change take place in this democratic framework without bloody surprises and without more violence and liquidations?

[Answer] One million percent. We have convened the Fatah Higher Military Council and the General Military Council of the Fatah Movement. With respect to the military, we came out with 55 percent of them on our side. Then we turned to our civilian brothers who were afraid. They actually were afraid of this system of which you speak because it had three weapons: murder, bribery or rumors, nothing else. We liberated these people from this fear and told them not to fear bribery and murder and not to fear rumor, for they are abundant. The important thing is to reach Palestine. I am in the process of changing this system. When I convene the Fatah Movement conference, I will invite everybody. Its sessions will be open and it will kick out the entire leadership, so far as I know, and will usher in a new program. Then comes the PLO with the Palestinian people. It is possible to convene a general popular conference representing the Palestinians worldwide and we will hold a mass gathering unequalled in the annals of the Palestinian people so that they may say their word for all the world to see the true Palestinian people. If Yasir 'Arafat or two are the Palestinian people, this reflects our impotence in safeguarding our traditions and not a matter of our intellectual and mental sophistication. It does not make sense to have 5 PLOs, for the PLO is the entire Palestinian people. It, not I, not Yasir 'Arafat, not 5 or 6 persons, is our identity and our constants. So why do they not change? Are they idols? And why not replace the PNC every 4 years or replace one-third or one-half of its membership every 2 years to bring in new blood so that people may stay informed about their cause.

Why is the entire PNC membership permanent while that of the executive committee is replaced by people appointed by the Fatah leadership like school children? These 5 Fatah czars make the appointments. Even those poor helpless individuals who fill the world with their cries are powerless, as evidenced by their inability to do anything in the 17th session. "Fatah leads, therefore, I want to make it to Fatah with all its stature." Let them

keep 7 or 8 profiteers who are known to our people and to the whole world. Fatah is not 5 or 6 individuals. It is the mass of our military and civilian cadres in all aspects of daily revolutionary life.

[Question] This leads one to imagine that there is nothing to preclude your presence inside the occupied territories.

[Answer] We do have a presence in the occupied territory.

[Question] I mean leaders from the corrective movement being openly active in the occupied territory.

[Answer] You will see that I am going to hold conferences inside the occupied territory. If the Israeli enemy will not allow it, I will hold these conferences on the East Bank. I will hold conferences for the Palestinians in Chicago, in Houston and all over the United States. There are one million Palestinians [in the United States-?] and I will hold a conference for them. We received an invitation this year and we addressed 25,000 Palestinians in Chicago. Yasir 'Arafat used to be invited there regularly, but this year he was not.

[Question] But what about the other important matter which is that this movement is in need of some kind of Arab legitimacy?

[Answer] With regard to Arab legitimacy, we all need it. However, I have one thing to say. I ask two things of the Arabs: to be neutral at this stage and to leave the Palestinians alone so long as we are not fighting with rifles like other factions. We are demanding a democratic transformation and a democratic change within the movement through a general conference. Convocation of a general conference is the right of all the movement cadres and is rejected by the leadership. The law give me the right to call for a meeting if I can rally one-third of the membership. If two-thirds plus one attend, I would have a quorum. I do have a quorum, so why does this conference not convene to express its opinion?

I will show the world, not just the Arabs, what the Palestinian people are saying until I prove that not even 10 percent of them disagree with me and 90 percent support me. I will then tell the Arab countries: "If you are offering aid to Yasir 'Arafat only because he is Yasir 'Arafat, go ahead and give him anything you want. If you are offering this aid to the Palestinian people, they are in more need of it." With respect to recognition, the Arab states recognize the PLO just as they recognize any other country. Rulers come and go without changing the people's reality, hence I am against the individual and against the ruler, but not against the organization or against the Palestinian people, their goals and their principles. Accordingly, these countries' recognition is mandatory if they harbor significant considerations for the Palestinian people. These people have the right to choose their representatives without imposition by this or that side. If this is realized, I do not think that the Arabs will be their stumbling block.

[Question] The other Palestinian leaders, who are in disagreement with Yasir 'Arafat and have dissented from his leadership, be they in Damascus, the

occupied territory or Mobile, are supposed to be understanding toward you. Are they understanding and is there a kind of quasi-direct coordination with these leaders?

[Answer] I would like to say one thing. Had we wished to take away these leaders' cadres, we would have done so in large numbers because many of them, including the Palestinian organizations, have approached us, but heretofore I have turned them down because I believe that at the organizations' level the battle is still within Fatah and must be settled in a conference. Following the conference, I can reach out to the Palestinian organizations to see what we can do together. I do not hide the fact that we have been and will be at odds with some organizations until our differences can be worked out. Some organizations advocate the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea and think they have the ability to do it. I advocate the same thing, but in stages and within reason and logic. I may differ with them on this theory, but may agree with them on their demands to remove and censure 'Arafat.

There are two considerations in this regard. I do not want to debate these organizations as individuals, but rather as Fatah. When I am done with settling the conflict within Fatah through a general conference and the leadership produced by such a conference is installed as the Fatah leadership, we will debate all the organizations and anyone else from this premise.

Second, I do not believe that the Palestinian organizations are the Palestinian people. They are byproducts of this people, armed byproducts that called for armed struggle and follow Fatah because the Arab nationalists had a known background and so did the Ba'thists and others, but in their political ideology they follow Fatah in armed struggle. We are the heirs of the armed struggle theory. We are Fatah. We assess this theory. Therefore, I say when our situation is settled through a general conference, we will have the right to have a dialogue with our people and with our PLO as factions and as a Palestinian people. Now, we do not want to begin this dialogue as a group of men who used to have an ideology and a goal. When we attain our real desired size, that of the entire Fatah organization wherever it may be, we will turn to dialogue with all sides.

[Question] It is assumed from the foregoing that the movement's ideology polarizes two sections of the Palestinian people: it polarizes the camps' residents on grounds that some of them are socially downtrodden and the others are threatened from the standpoint of security and they have no real defense. The other section is the Palestinian bourgeoisie in the sense that this group, by virtue of its composition, leans toward those who speak to a certain reality and who build good bridges with the Jordanian regime on the grounds that Jordan is the main base of this bourgeoisie and that it is made up of groups of businessmen who tend toward solutions that achieve stability rather than revolutionary ones. One notices, however, that these two sections stand behind the Palestinian leadership that you distrust, and they offer it unlimited support as though their primary concern is the 'Arafat leadership on grounds that it is the symbol of Palestinian legitimacy or of Palestinian being or of Palestinian sovereignty or of Palestinian nationalism. Can brother Abu-al-Za'im kindly explain this extremely important point?

[Answer] Actually, what you have just presented is important in principle and is untrue in reality. Reality is quite different. One thing I would like to emphasize is that all Palestinians, regardless of their origins or affiliations and be they on Jordanian soil or in territory occupied in 1947 or 1967 or scattered all over the universe, have a strange sense of their Palestinian identity, and I am one of them. All my Palestinian brothers and I are forever drawn by a strong magnetic pole to something smaller called the Palestinian identity. Fear for this identity and adherence to it render the Palestinians' perpetually apprehensive prior to making up their minds on any subject. The important thing is to sense a being whatever it may be. With regard to the Palestinians in Jordan, be they bourgeois or camp residents, I do not deny that they support me more than they support 'Arafat and the world will witness this day after day. However, the Palestinians, by virtue of their reality on this earth, while drawn to their Palestinian identity, are also drawn to their everyday reality in this country, whether they belong to the bourgeois section or to the other popular section. For in this country, they are citizens who enjoy full rights and responsibilities, carry passports, purchase land, buy and sell and vote. They are represented in parliament, they are represented in government and they are represented in anything they wish. They are distinguished from any other Palestinian in that they alone enjoy such privileges that stem from the crucial relationship between the East Bank and the West Bank. You find them here drawn between two poles: one pulling them emotionally to their cause, their homeland and their identity, and another drawing them to their reality and everyday stability in this country. This matter can be simply expressed by maintaining the sound relationship between the PLO leadership and the leadership in Jordan. For there exists an inseparable Jordanian-Palestinian interlock and anyone who does not realize this reality does not know the Palestinian people. In 'Abdun, Amman's poshest area, 90 percent of the buildings are owned by Palestinians and the downtrodden camps are 100 percent Palestinian. Palestinians here are represented in parliament and in government and are represented in all job sectors while the Jordanians are not eligible for PNC representation. Nayif Hawatimah is not a member in the PNC because he is not a Palestinian. I perceive a Palestinian distinction here which prompts me to say that the camps do not really stand behind 'Arafat out of fear for Palestinian legitimacy. People used to be wary about this until we started explaining our ideas and opinions to them. We began visiting the camp on a large scale and I invite you to visit al-Husun camp on Friday to see for yourself and talk to the Palestinian people. I have toured all the camps on the East Bank and on the West Bank we maintain incessant endeavors. Hundreds, indeed thousands of committees are formed in our Palestinian camps and areas and I do not want to cite any figures lest people think I am exaggerating. But go anywhere you want and you will see this interaction among the different sectors. These sectors, bourgeois and non-bourgeois alike, are on our side, but we have not heretofore asked them for a position because first we want to get down with the Fatah matter and to prepare the Palestinian people for this role. When we are done with the Fatah conference, we will enter into the PLO. We are still in the organizational frameworks, fighting our battle within Fatah, but polarizing the Palestinian people because they are the real beneficiaries of this cause. Therefore, I have never perceived the

Palestinian bourgeoisie, the camps' downtrodden population or any other Palestinian sector of society as being against the Palestinian identity. I am on their side in their identity and I am with them on the PLO. When the people realized that we adhere to the PLO as much as 'Arafat and "then more" and felt that the identity was in good health, the matter became that of individuals: will so and so stay in the PLO leadership and will so and so get out. However, the PLO as a historical right and a Palestinian identity has been attained and is present as a political member of the Arab League. It is irreproachable and no man on the face of the earth can touch it. Its international legitimacy is here to stay.

Hence, when the Palestinians realize this fact, they cannot contradict us because, and I swear to that, I have not found one or two percent of the Palestinian people against what we advocate because the poor Palestinians have been frustrated and have begun to feel that they have nothing but empty promises and blood: bloodbaths and flashy promises, loss and perdition. Twenty years ago Palestinians in Lebanon were masters--regardless of whether this is right or wrong. Today, they are driven out from Tunis and Sudan and ostracized here. Where can the Palestinian people go? How do we get them out of this dilemma at this stage? It is not a question of rank, position or state. I do not interfere in Jordan's affairs and I do not allow Jordan to interfere in mine. Neither do I interfere in the affairs of Egypt, Syria, Iraq or any other Arab country, nor do I allow them to interfere in mine.

But we welcome national participation in a moderate logical Palestinian position able to be translated into facts, not one that plunges us every day into a tragedy, a bloodbath or a few quagmires. This is the real difference, not that so and so did or did not do or so and so did or did not steal or betrayed or did not betray. There are no traitors, but there is a reality and there are people who refuse to deal with reality. It used to be that we had a respected leadership that had capabilities and was well-received anywhere it went. This Palestinian people must find a way to tell them. No one has the courage to tell the Palestinian people that we have failed for the past 20 years. This is an experiment. Armed struggle is a long drawn-out war against this enemy. We have tried it for 20 years and where has it gotten us? I am not against this war, but we have not accomplished anything.

Was it an error in theory or in practice? Islam is true, but the people are not. The revolution's logic is true and so is its concepts, but daily intercourse and application are not. We must reexamine application, not concept. Is this a crime? Let us meet in a conference to put our cards on the table and see the size of the one who has installed himself a leader: his size within the conference and the Palestinian people. Why such highhandedness and tyranny?

[Question] When specifically did you begin to contemplate this idea and can we publish some matters that coincided with the decision you made in this regard?

[Answer] Some of my brothers and I began thinking about this matter in 1981, since the first Fez summit specifically. Our presence in Lebanon, however, was another matter. It gave us a kind of assurance that we were there, that

we were in daily contact with this enemy and that the struggle lived on and the cause was alive. We found many faults in the foiling of the Fez plan and in the fact that the leadership had arrived at and drafted a decision. Moreover, when we recall Abu 'Ammar's speech before the UN, when the world stood up to applaud the PLO, in which he said "I come with a rifle in one hand and an olive branch in the other hand," we find that the rifle has been dropped and the olive branch has dried up because of this leadership and owing to these circumstances which we did not know how to manage with due positivism.

The first Fez summit was held in 1981 and we had hoped for a serious settlement or at least for proof that we were not the cause of its failure. We forged alliances with Arab countries and we presented a clear plan, but later spurned it for reasons attributed to the "leadership." Thereafter, we, along with Sa'd Sayil--God rest his soul--began sensing that our group was not serious in achieving anything for the Palestinian people and had begun savoring life in this fashion. Then came the great disaster of our departure from Beirut. We found ourselves scattered all over the globe and Palestinian action did not only abate, but came to a complete halt. I and others became worn out and I felt I was responsible for this people and indeed for myself. We began talking with the leadership about an inevitable way out, but found that our options were dwindling. Abu 'Ammar came here to Jordan at its invitation. An agreement was drafted and Abu 'Ammar did not object to it ultimately and it was ready for signature. Thereupon, he went to Kuwait and the rest is known. Then the Damascus affair took place and we departed from what was left of Tripoli and Lebanon. You are well aware of our situation in Lebanon: "poor defenseless people" being killed. What, then, is the solution? And what must I do? We evolved into a small authority outside the homeland and outside the realm of reality. Our first clash was in Sanaa in 1984 and our brothers in North Yemen are well aware of that. For your information, I received an official invitation from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih conveyed by the Yemeni ambassador to Amman. I believe that the backdrop of this invitation was Abu 'Ammar's presence there during the revolution's anniversary. He was pressing for a Palestinian reunion. I am not against the Palestinian people coming together and indeed I strive for that. I gratefully accepted the invitation in the name of my brothers, saying that after the conference I would go there to represent certain people there. I received this invitation only 20 days ago.

[Question] This means that this was the first Arab invitation?

[Answer] It was the first but its background was not explained to me because the ambassador was not put in the picture. I accepted the invitation and set its date for after the 5th Fatah conference.

What I want to say is that we were in conflict in Sanaa in 1984. I, along with one-third of the military council, left the council in anger and Abu 'Ammar sensed the onset of a split in the military leadership. He began, ever since then, to inflame the conflict instead of trying to put things in order. I used to tell him: "Brother Abu 'Ammar, we want to accomplish something" and he used to reply: "Yes, we want to accomplish something." I used to ask him how and he used to say that he did not know. He always used to vilify the

central committee leaders, saying that they understood nothing and that some of them worked for Syria and others for other sides. He levelled various accusations against them, saying that he was unable to make a decision and ultimately the Fatah leadership was making the decisions. This is the upshot and there is no power and no strength save in God.

From then on things began to intensify little by little until we got to our present dilemma. I would like to say for all the Palestinians and Arabs to hear that if I had thought that 10 percent of the Palestinian struggle had been left for this leadership to achieve, I would never have dissented even in the face of growing and intensifying wounds so long as they did not hurt the homeland. But I felt that I had nothing to lose and that the Palestinian struggle had practically nothing left in its bag. The legitimacy which has been recognized by the Arab countries had been in existence since the Shuqayri days in 1964. When al-Shuqayri joined the Arab League, he found that his seat was in the back, so he placed it next to 'Abd-al-Nasir's seat, saying: "This is the seat of Palestine, not of Ahmad al-Shuqayri." He firmly established the PLO's legitimacy in every summit conference. So all this Palestinian armed struggle did not bring anything new to this legitimacy. It has always been there.

[Question] But what about international legitimacy?

[Answer] When we have Arab legitimacy and the name of Palestine, the world cannot turn a deaf ear or ignore an issue like the Palestinian cause. This cause is bigger than all of us and is not so simple as to allow the world to ignore it. You know that 'Abd-al-Nasir was the one who introduced Yasir 'Arafat to the Kremlin. I do not say that they have capitulated or have gone insane. But I do say that every stage has its own circumstances, elements and methods and I distinguish between the revolutionary and the bull. The bull is strong and charges into the ring with the idea that he is the only one there, but in a matter of minutes any professional can throw it to the ground. But the revolutionary is reason, awareness and will and knows where to put his foot in the circumstances around him. But to say that he is right and everyone else is wrong and he alone is patriotic and all others are traitors, this is totally unacceptable in this day and age. The world has been mentally and intellectually liberated and is ready to debate everything. Therefore, I have something to suggest: give me an alternative. What is the alternative to what I have put forth so that I may go along with them? Here they are alone, so why do they not meet and come to an agreement? They consider us the outcasts. Agree on something. Are they capable of agreeing on anything? Are they capable of coming out with anything new other than more dispersion, afflictions and attacks against one another?

How long will the Palestinians wait for them? They have given them 20 years of their blood, flesh, suffering and homes and this is what they get. Tell them what you think about what is happening. You owe it to them, o brothers!

[Question] Let us be a bit realistic. When brother Abu Musa and brother Abu Salih came into the picture, they put forth similar ideas and that was that. What kind of radical change did they effect other than division. And I hope

that my words will not be construed as a defense of Abu 'Ammar's leadership for it is capable of defending itself.

[Answer] This is true. When brother Abu Musa, brother Abu Salih and others undertook their movement, they focused on everyday mistakes without touching on the political dimension of this people's cause. My criticism is that they failed to diagnose this basic case which is: where does this take us? They did not put forth their ideas among the Palestinian people. I put forth my ideas in Palestinian circles and I believe that any movement wishing to meet with success must know what ideas to put forth and where and under what conditions it ought to do that. I think that Abu Musa's movement lacked many of these conditions. It failed, for instance, to raise the matter of the Palestinian people's destiny. It failed to raise the matter of the state of perdition in which we find ourselves because of the leadership's fumbling. It did not raise the question of whence and whereto. It failed to raise these matters in Palestinian circles. Rather, it raised them in certain specific circles that advocated fighting the Maronites and called for armed struggle. It is the same story put in a different way. As for us, we say something else which is that the Palestinian crossing, 20 years later, is threatened and in peril and that in 21 years we have not accomplished anything for the Palestinian people and have not allowed them to be partners except in blood. Now, where are we going? Why do we not reach popular and national consensus on something? I say how can I allow the Palestinian people to be partners in destiny and how can I have them choose their establishments through the PLO? This is the difference between me and the others.

[Question] The main point that gives your movement strength is the element of place: to wit, that this movement is in Jordan. My belief is that if this movement were outside Jordan, it would not be effective.

[Answer] This is what I say and this is my criticism of my brothers in Damascus. The reason is not that this country is Jordan, but that this Palestinian grouping comprises 70 percent of all the Palestinian people. Direct daily contact with the inhabitants of the occupied territory and the encounters with the people coming and going from Kuwait, the Gulf, the United States or any other place means that this is the country of the Palestinians. Hence, when something is raised, it is raised from the reality of the Palestinian people and the heart of the Palestinian people.

[Question] As a follow-up to this question, so long as this is the way things are and given the new good relations between Jordan and Syria, what prevents leaders who were in conflict with the Fatah leadership and chose Syria as their place of operation and residence from moving to Jordan to coordinate with you?

[Answer] I openly call on them to do that. I do that with affection, provided they come here with clear intentions. We have talked with them in the past and now we have three of them with us. We have Colonel Kayid, Lieutenant Colonel Rubhi and Major Mustafa who came from there, and a large number of lesser cadres have also left Syria to join us here. Moreover, large numbers from Baghdad and all other areas of the Palestinian diaspora have joined us as well. Up until last Thursday, however (the interview took place

on Monday, 27 October 1986), and I am not giving away any secrets, one of their emissaries came to us. We discussed only one point pertaining to Palestinian destiny: "Where do you stand on it?" They see success for our movement because all the surrounding conditions say so and the Palestinian people have reacted and responded to us quickly. However, the question of destiny is the issue. We have a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, but their position on it remains ambiguous and is sometimes closer to that of the Salvation Front which calls for its abrogation and the creation of a single Fatah. To my mind, any solution in this area cannot be but a Palestinian-Jordanian one. If I am to be candid and clear, my people must be aware of this fact. No one can leave the main site that has the gateways to the cause to go looking for other sites. But I say this agreement that has been ratified by all PLO, Fatah and other Palestinian leaders and by the Jordanian government and has been signed by the king and the head of the PLO, why not adopt it as the political course of the upcoming stage? When we fail to achieve peace, it becomes apparent that the enemy and the United States do not want peace, so why this vehement position toward us that we are impeding peace? We support peace and we must work together. If peace fails, we can support the occupied territory's steadfastness and can build a new Arab reality to resist occupation through all the legitimate avenues, the foremost of which is armed struggle. This matter must not be dropped. Popular resistance is the legitimate right of all the peoples of the occupied territory. I call for flexibility and realism. I see an Arab reality before my eyes, one that is sinking to the bottom, and a worse Palestinian reality that has totally disintegrated. The Palestinian people are on my side and Palestinian organizations are on 50 other sides. If peace is not achieved and we all fail, we can be united and of one heart. What is required of the Palestinians who are holding fast to their land and how can we reinforce their steadfastness? How can we develop their struggle politically, militarily and in other ways? What is required of Jordan as a state that shares the longest borders with these Palestinians and has daily active association with them? How can we develop a better Jordanian position? How can we develop a better Syrian, a better Lebanese or a better Egyptian position? And how can we develop a better overall Arab position to create a better international situation for the cause? No oneupmanship and no capitulation. What I ask is that we not outbid one another, that we not capitulate and that we not sow dissension in the ranks.

[Question] This kind of direction is supposed to solve the problem of the camp inhabitants in south Lebanon on the premise that such an idea and such an outlook compels the camps' assailants to show some understanding and flexibility. What stands in the way of rescuing these camps via a series of contacts you might undertake as a test of your flexibility in your political dealings with others?

[Answer] This has already been done. During the recent Sabra and Shatilla battles, I appealed to Mr Nabih Birri through the mass media, asking him not to fall into traps laid for him by Yasir 'Arafat so as to go down in history as the destroyer of the Palestinian and Lebanese forces and a butcher of the Palestinian and Lebanese people, for I do not think that only the Palestinians are being butchered. I also appealed to President Hafiz al-Asad and I welcomed the security plan and asked that it be maintained. This was

published in the Syrian press. I later received a message from Mr Nabih Birri through a brother--and unfortunately we now have come to something different--saying: "I would like to ask brother Abu-al-Za'im a question because he is the most knowledgeable in this matter and is the first one to go into Lebanon: You are a friend of Imam Musa al-Sadr and all the political forces in Lebanon. You know what the Shiites have offered to the Palestinian cause. We have shared in the defense of the southern villages to protect them and to protect the Palestinian revolution. The people of Ba'alabak are most eager for revenge." He asked me who got killed in the Ba'alabak camp in retaliation for what happened in Beirut, saying: "We have 8 camps in the south which we hold in our hearts, so let Abu 'ammar stay away from them. But when he comes to fight Syria through his posture in Lebanon and to fight the Lebanese forces in order to regain control over Lebanon, this is the sort of thing from which he must desist." At that time, I actually found that the matter pertained to the degree of concern 'Arafat had for the Palestinian people in Lebanon. In other words, it was inconceivable for me to deal with the Palestinian people as though I was still in Lebanon. Things have changed now and my only demand is to spare Palestinian blood. But leading the Palestinian people to a whirlpool of contradictions with the Shiites, with the Maronites, with the Syrians and with the Palestinians themselves, will not prompt others to light the censer for you while you are fighting and provoking them and engaging in practices they consider against their national interest.

Hence, the strategy of Palestinian action in Lebanon must undergo a radical change at this stage whereby Palestinian blood is protected and preserved as ammunition for any stage in the future, rather than led into a labyrinth with this or that side or this or that group, thus alienating brothers who are supposed to take us into their hearts.

[Question] You have had the change in over 50 years to meet many Arab rulers and officials, most of whom are still in responsible and decision-making positions. Without going into names, and you know what I am driving at, how do you assess their attitude toward this matter after being raised in the light of rectification?

[Answer] I believe that this is an old-new question. I would like these words to be stipulated without names so as not to embarrass anyone. You are aware of the fact that many of 'Arafat's private missions I used to convey personally to Arab kings and presidents. As I have said, this is an old-new question. I used to carry many messages to kings and presidents. I was a new relative by virtue of my position in the leadership. I would like to remind the brothers how in every meeting that occurred discussion used to revolve around 'Arafat's style or conduct and I always tried to defend him because I could not accuse a brother whose message I was carrying. Everyone thought that we were fumbling about and that we lacked resolution and, therefore, would lose our cause because we were incapable of arriving at a unified decision. Add to that personal reproof for various vilifications. You know that 'Arafat used to engage in verbal abuse against certain rulers and would retract his statements when relations improved. Once again I say let us not mention any names so as not to embarrass anyone. Furthermore, I have not yet contacted any of the Arab rulers and officials. Why? Because we are still talking about convening a Fatah conference and when we convene this conference

we want to have a legitimacy in whose name we can speak and when we broach the subject as a Palestinian liberation organization we will do so directly with the Arabs and we will hear what they have to say. I believe that every Arab leader must stand, if he wishes to take a stand, with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause and not with Abu-al-Za'im or Abu 'Ammar as individuals. We will be governed in the future by a Palestinian consensus, by a Palestinian majority and by the soundest course. If there is a course sounder than theirs (the leadership's course to wit), they must stand by it, and if the Palestinian majority is behind a certain idea or a certain leadership, I ask the Arabs to abide by these ethics.

[Question] To conclude this interview, there are two things. First, how much do you miss Lebanon and how can a movement such as yours help this country?

Second, can you give the readers an autobiography of when you joined Fatah and why you were called Abu-al-Za'im, for example, and is the name related to an early ambition for leadership or was it spontaneous?

[Answer] With regard to Lebanon, it has a special place in the heart of every Palestinian because this country opened its doors to us and has given us what many Arab brothers have not. There is no doubt that this country has endured much adversity because of us. This once democratically, economically and culturally prosperous country has been transformed into a country of calamity and misfortune. I believe that had the Palestinian revolution not gone to Lebanon and had it not engaged in all forms of black, white, red and green action--the colors of our Palestinian flag--on Lebanese soil, things would not have turned out this way. In the interest of truth and historical honesty, I say these people and this good country dealt with the Palestinians with utmost Arab righteousness, generosity and chivalry. Throughout all the long years we spent in Lebanon, not one of us felt like a stranger. Indeed, we considered ourselves Lebanese and in many situations the Palestinian leader saw himself as a Lebanese leader closer to another Lebanese leader than to a Palestinian one. Therefore, I hope God will put an end to all the affliction and suffering in Lebanon and will spare it all these difficulties so that it may once again be one country united under a government agreed upon by the people and may regain its stability and prosperity.

As to what our movement can offer this country, the first thing we offered is that we stayed out of this conflict and tried to be the good voice of all sides. We are sure that the triumph of this movement is imminent and when it moves into the hands of my brothers or of those elected by the Palestinian people, and we have to be a party to or a part of this new reality, we will do everything we can to at least keep the Palestinians out of this conflict in Lebanon because they have nothing whatsoever to do with such conflicts.

About who Abu-al-Za'im is, his story can be summed up as follows. My name is 'Atallah Muhammad Ahmad 'Atallah. I was born in a small village called Bayt Surik located northwest of Jerusalem (about 8 km) and one km from the village of al-Qustal. I was born in 1936. My father was detained at "Atbit," at the hands of the then British mandate because of his participation in the Palestinian revolution. We came from the "Bani Malih" region which is comprised of a large number of villages. My father was well-known in his area

and in most of Palestine. In 1947 we left. I studied at al-Rashidiyah College, then enrolled in Alexandria University where I studied journalism. Then I joined the Jordanian Staff College. I worked as an officer in the Jordanian armed forces until 1968 when I held an opposing opinion that we all were negligent as Arabs in serving the Arab and Palestinian cause. I got involved in certain political activities, the most important of which was my secret membership in the Fatah Movement. I was arrested and interrogated and spent 28 days in detention. I then left the Jordanian army to join Fatah and was sent to Iraq where I attended a series of active military training courses for 6 or more months after which I returned to Jordan to lead the battles of "al-Himmah," al-Hizam al-Akhdar," "al-Ard al-Tayyibah," "Harab al-Fatah," "Izz-al-Din al-Qasam," and "Farhan al-Sa'di," which was a series of large-scale operations by which I aimed to change the strategy of Palestinian action which used to take off in small groups no bigger than 3 to 5 elements alongside the frontiers. I said we had to have occupation operations and operations carried out by no less than 200 or 300 fighters in one stage so as to have greater interaction and greater military impact, as a training for creating a popular liberation army able to undertake large-scale operations and tasks. At that time, the revolution was expanded to Lebanon and the Lebanese front that extended from Mount Hebron to al-Naqurah had to be included in the fight against the Israeli enemy. I was at the time chief of military operations in Fatah, so I went at the head of some forces, after some brothers had failed to do the job and were captured with their groups, to Lebanon in the direction of the south and it happened that we clashed with some elements of the Lebanese army. The residents of "Ayha" and "Rashaya al-Wadi" still recall that I swore not to open fire until after the 15th shot had been fired on us by the Lebanese army. I remember that "Shibli al-'Aryan" specifically was present along with some "Ayha" residents and when one of my companions was killed, the clash broke out.

Regarding the name "Abu-al-Za'im," it may be said that ever since I was 5 years old, my father used to call me by this name. When I became a young man, my colleagues at school and the War College called me Abu-al-Za'im and after I joined the Fatah Movement, the comrades--who all had a nom de guerre--began calling me by this name.

[End of Interview]

What I would like to say at the end of this interview with Abu-al-Za'im is that this movement which he leads must not be underrated in the sense that it is imperative, notwithstanding Abu-al-Za'im's self-abandon in expressing his thoughts, that this role he is playing be seriously contemplated for it may effect stupefying surprises in the Palestinian equation and consequently in the Arab-Palestinian-international one.

I wish that Abu-al-Za'im had exercised in this interview a measure of self-criticism, particularly since pinning the mistakes of everyone on the historical leadership represented in the person of Yasir 'Arafat was a kind of injustice against this leadership. Self-criticism would have enhanced the credibility of Abu-al-Za'im's movement in the minds of others.

I would also like to say in conclusion that the corrective movement undertaken

by Abu-al-Za'im is the third of its kind in contemporary Arab history after the Hafiz al-Asad movement in Syria and the al-Sadat movement in Egypt. As to which of these two movements has had the greater influence on Abu-al-Za'im's movement, it is a divine secret even though, hypothetically, I see in the air some surprises or something that fits in with what singer Muhammad 'Abduh says in his famous song: "Please move away, move away...you will see clouds in the air."

12502

CSO: 4404/155

AFGHAN MUSLIM LEADER SEEKS DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION

Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 12 Oct 86 p 5

[Interview with Afghan mujahidin leader Gulbeddin Hikmetyar by Selami Tuncel; in Istanbul]

[Text] Gulbeddin Hikmetyar, president of the Islamic Alliance Council which was formed by a merger of seven organizations fighting the Russians and their puppet regime in Afghanistan, pointed out that the Russians would be defeated sooner or later and said, "We are fighting a holy war for Muslim honor."

The Afghan mujahidin leader Gulbeddin Hikmetyar, in Istanbul to attend the International Conference on Economic Integration of the Muslim World, made a special statement to our newspaper. Hikmetyar said that the Russians' daily war expenses are \$40 million. He said:

"The holy war that we are pursuing against the 230,000 Russian troops now in Afghanistan is continuing with full force. Ninety percent of Afghan territory outside of the capital, Kabul, is under our control. We have destroyed 700 Russian aircraft and 8,500 tanks during our 7 years of warfare. The Russians recently announced that they are withdrawing troops from Afghanistan in an effort to mislead world public opinion and especially Muslims. This is a great lie. The troops they are taking back are the wounded ones lying in Kabul hospitals. They have hidden behind this propaganda to send in high powered SU-25 bombers. Now we are saying that the Muslim countries which claim to support us should permit us to occupy the Afghan embassies and consulates which are rightfully ours in their countries. At least let them deliver a slap in the face by severing economic and commercial relations with this country, which is the patron of the communist regimes. This is our hope and expectation."

Hikmetyar expressed his pleasure at being in the city and among the descendants of Sultan Mehmet the Conquerer and continued:

"We, the Afghan Muslims, are hoping for the most interest and assistance from the Turkish people, with their brilliant past full of victories. The Muslim Turkish people must support us with material aid in our war against communism, and our brothers for whom this is impossible must then be unstinting in their prayers for us. We are fighting under the command of Allah for the sake of Islam. Our own soil, where we dwell as foreigners, will not become a Czechoslovakia or a Hungary. The Russians will leave as they came, in the shame of defeat at the hands of the Muslims."

UNITED STATES, JAPAN DHAKA'S BIGGEST TRADE PARTNERS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

New Nation Report

USA and Japan are the biggest trade partners of Bangladesh with Washington buying over 20 per cent of our total exports and Tokyo supplying about 22 per cent of the imports.

Block wise North American countries topped the buyers list sharing about 22 per cent of our exports closely followed by OIC 20 per cent and EEC nearly 19 per cent.

Imports from Asian countries rank the highest being about 22 per cent but exports to these countries only about six per cent.

According to the latest estimate available from Bangladesh Bank, USA bought goods from Bangladesh worth Tk 137.5 crore during the January-March quarter, followed by UK 40.2 crore, Pakistan 39.3 crore, Japan 36.3 crore, and India Tk 5.4 crore only.

Supply of readymade garments during the quarter to USA stood at Tk. 99.4 crore recording a 41.6 percent increase over the same period of last year. Fish and fish products, jute and jute products figured mainly as other items of exports to these countries.

The pattern of origin of import under cash, barter, special trade and wage earners scheme

during the last October-December quarter revealed that Japan topped the list of suppliers. Imports during the period from Japan amounted to Tk 137.6 crore or 13.8 per cent of our total imports.

The main items imported from Japan were iron and steel-Tk 47.3 crore, transport equipment Tk 24 crore, machinery other than electric Tk 16.7 crore, clothing Tk 9.5 crore and electrical machinery apparatus and appliance Tk 7.7 crore.

The second largest imports were from Singapore which supplied goods worth Tk 124.1 crore during the quarter. The major items imported from Singapore were vegetable oil and fat totalling Tk. 61 crore, petroleum and petroleum products worth Tk 21.9 crore, machinery other than electrical Tk. 6.8 crore and textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products Tk. 6.7 crore.

Imports from other countries included China 47.3 crore, India 39.6 crore, Kuwait, UAE and Saudi Arabia supplied mainly fuel oil.

/8309

CSO: 4600/1290

PAPERS REPORT ON RELATIONS WITH PRC

Dinner for NCNA Team

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 23 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Information Minister Anwar Zahid said in Dhaka last night that friendship between Bangladesh and China would go a long way in preserving our sovereignty and strengthening our national economy, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a dinner hosted by Mr ABM Musa, Managing Director, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), in honour of visiting Xinhua (Chinese national news agency) press delegation at a local hotel.

The function was attended, among others, by Mr M Tajul Islam, Press Adviser to the President, Mr Zheng Jian Ying, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, newspaper editors, senior journalists and officials of the Information Ministry.

Mr Anwar Zahid said that Bangladesh had occupied a special place in the hearts of the Chinese people. The Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge now being built across the river Buriganga with Chinese assistance symbolised the strong bonds of friendship between our two countries, he said and expressed his gratefulness to the Chinese Government and leaders for their extraordinary gesture towards Bangladesh.

The Information Minister noted that a friendship hall and a primary school being set up in Beijing were the manifestation of the deepest feeling of the Chinese government for Bangladesh.

He expressed the hope that the visit of Xinhua press delegation not only signified the growing cooperation between Xinhua and BSS but also demonstrated feeling of goodwill between the peoples of our two countries.

In his speech Mr ABM Musa said co-operation among the news agencies of the Third World countries would not only help focus the development taking place in these countries but also end the domination of transnational news agencies.

Mr Musa was happy to note that Xinhua was coming up well. Today the Chinese national news agency was covering the activities of the Third World countries very extensively. He expressed the hope that Xinhua by its wide coverage would reflect the hopes and aspirations of the masses of the developing countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Zeng Jianhui, Deputy Director General of Xinhua and leader of the delegation, said that they would return home with unforgettable memory of Bangladesh and its people.

He noted that the frequent visits of the pressmen to and from China bore a testimony to the close and friendly relations between our two governments and the peoples.

Mr Jian thanked the BSS management for inviting them to visit Bangladesh and noted that exchanges of newsmen and collaboration between the two national news agencies would further consolidate the ties between the two countries.

The two other members of the press delegation are: Mr Wujin, Chief News Editor of the International News Department and Mr Ou Qiming, Chief News Editor, Xinhua.

Ershad Opens Bridge Project

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad yesterday inaugurated the construction of the long cherished link bridge across Buriganga river near Postagola saying: The construction of the bridge will not only contribute to the flourishing of the capital city, but also leave a positive impact on the national economy, reports BSS.

The President formally switched on the piling works of the designed bridge named—Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge. Estimated to cost Taka 108.80 crore, the bridge, to establish through direct motorable link between southern region and other parts of the country, is being constructed with Chinese technical assistance and financial support to the tune of Tk 58 crore.

[word indistinct] the bridge as a shining example of friendship, amity and cooperation between Bangladesh and China, the President said, the bridge did not only fulfil his another commitment, but would also be considered a very important milestone in the annals of 350 years of history of the capital city of Dhaka.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Ministry of Communication, Prof M. A. Matin, and the visiting Chinese Vice Minister Lu Xue Jian.

President Ershad spoke of government priority on the expansion and development of power generation and distribution network as well as improving of communications and plan was being implemented to link every upazila with their respec-

tive district Headquarters and also with the national highway network.

A total of 240 roads stretching over 4,145 kilometres would be constructed under the Five Year Plan under implementation in this respect, he said.

In this context, President Ershad mentioned the Meghna bridge and Jamuna multi-purpose bridge and said agreement had been signed with the government of Japan for the construction of a bridge on Meghna river on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. 'We have also made significant progress with regard to the construction of the Jamuna multipurpose bridge across River Jamuna linking the eastern and western regions of the country', he said.

He said, "We are putting in untiring effort with determination to make Bangladesh self-reliant at the earliest. Inshallah the face of the country will be changed after a few years from now."

The President said that at the same time, we had built the democratic infrastructure and forged national cohesion. In our bid to attain prosperity we were working tirelessly to transform the population into a human resource, he said adding: what we require now is technology and infrastructure to support development pursuit and that two we are attaining fast.

Tracing the background of the Buriganga bridge, President Ershad said during his visit to China last year, the third during last four and a half years tenure of his government, he talked to the Chinese Prime Minister to set up projects in each other's countries to enshrine 'friendship between the two peoples'. The Chinese Prime Minister agreed to provide technical and finan-

cial support to the construction of the Buriganga bridge.

Bangladesh also offered China to set up a school there with Bangladesh fund as a token of friendship, he said adding "To honour our bilateral amity the Chinese side agreed on the proposal. Information Minister Anwar Zahid now in China on a visit is scheduled to hand over a cheque for one million dollars to the Chinese government towards the setting up of the school."

Thanking the government and people of China for the gesture of friendship they had been showing to Bangladesh as partner in progress, the President said the friendship which was rooted in history of over thousand years, was ever lasting and growing from strength to strength with the passage of time.

Vice-Minister Mr Lu Xue-jian, head of the economic and trade delegation of the Chinese government, said that completion of the Friendship Bridge would stand as an everlasting symbol of friendship between China and Bangladesh. He said that under the leadership of President Ershad, Bangladesh had achieved glori-fying success in the development of economy as well as in other fields and was playing a positive role in international affairs, non-aligned movement and especially the cooperation in southern Asia.

Beijing Friendship Hall

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Beijing, Nov 18 (BSS)--
Mr Anwar Zahid, Special
Envoy for Information
has presented a cheque
of one million US dollars
to the Mayor of Beijing
Mr Chen Xitong at a
simple but colourful
ceremony in Beijing.

The contribution, which is
a token reciprocation to the Chinese
assistance in building Bangla-
desh-China Friendship Bridge in
Dhaka, is towards the construc-
tion of a Bangladesh-China
Friendship Hall and other pro-
jects in the heart of Beijing city.
A letter of understanding was
signed and exchanged by the
Special Envoy Minister
Anwar Zahid and the
Mayor of Beijing Mr Chen
Xitong respectively. Chinese
Foreign Minister Mr Wu Xue-
qian, Vice Foreign Minister Liu
Shuqing, Bangladesh Ambassa-
dor in China Mr Enayetullah
Khan and Director Gene-
ral, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs Dr Fazlul Hassan Yusuf,
were present at the signing cere-
mony.

Bangladesh-China Friendship
Projects envisage construction
of a Bangladesh-China Friend-
ship Hall and a Friendship Room
in Beijing to display cultural, histo-
rical and scientific objects and
mementoes of cooperation between
Bangladesh and China. The pro-
jects will also encompass
various fields of activities
to promote friendship and
cooperation between China and
Bangladesh and their peoples.
In this connection the famous
first Beijing Experimental School
where the Friendship Projects
will be undertaken has been
named as Bangladesh-China
Friendship School.

After the signing ceremony
the Special Envoy was greeted
by a gathering of students of
First Experimental School. A
young student while conveying
the heartfelt thanks of the stud-
ents to the Special Envoy
also presented on behalf of the
students some paintings and
calligraphy for President Ershad
and for the Special Envoy and
the Ambassador.

The Special Envoy told the
young students that it was
indeed a memorable event in
the history of Bangladesh-China
relationship. He also conveyed
warmest greetings of the children
of Bangladesh to the children
of China and deeply appreciated
their gifts and also the warm
sentiments of friendship ex-
pressed by them.

Barter Protocol Details

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Nov 86 pp 1, 10

[Text]

Bangladesh and China will exchange goods worth 44 million dollars (about Taka 1,300 million) each way during 1987 under the 10th barter protocol signed between the two countries in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

The protocol was signed following a three-day friendly negotiations between the officials of the two countries.

The visiting Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Mr Lu Xuejian and the Commerce Secretary Mr A.B.M Gulam Mustafa signed the protocol on behalf of their respective government.

This is the third protocol concluded under the five-year long term trade agreement signed between the two countries in 1984.

Under the protocol Bangladesh will export to China jute goods including jute yarn twine and jute carpet, raw jute finished leather hides and skin tea, newsprint tobacco light industrial products including electric wires and cables tea processing machine and asphalt.

On the other hand import items are: Pig Iron dyes and chemical light industrial products and hardware machinery, equipment and spares scientific and surgical instruments diesel cotton sugar steam coal refractory materials road construction equipment electric meters and other equipment.

The official figures indicate that during the first eleven months of 1985-86 Bangladesh exports to China amounted to Tk. 710.83 million compared to Taka 230.82 million during 1984-85. On the other hand Bangladesh imports from China during the same period of 1985-86 were Taka 22,174.43 million of which barter imports were Taka 745.39 million.

Barter exchange accounts for more than 99 per cent of Bangladesh exports to China while cash transaction dominates the

import trade.

The sources expressed their hope that enlargement of barter protocol would facilitate mutually beneficial expansion and diversification of trade between Bangladesh and China.

After signing of the protocol the Chinese Vice Minister and the Commerce Secretary hoped that the 10th barter protocol would help promote and expand the bilateral trade ties between Bangladesh and China.

Contract on Cargo Vessel

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 22 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation yesterday signed a contract with China Ship Building Trading Company Limited and the Guang Zhou Shipyard for construction of a multipurpose cargo vessel under supplier's credit arrangement, reports BSS.

Mr. Tarek Anis Ahmed, Managing Director of BSC, signed the contract on behalf of the corporation while Mr. Li Bizhong, Director of Export Department and Mr. Ye Pei Hua signed on behalf of the China Ship Building Trading Co. Ltd. and the Guang Zhou Shipyard respectively. Mr Chen Guatai, Commercial counsellor of the Chinese embassy in Dhaka was also present on the occasion.

The 17,500 DWT multipurpose vessel will be built at a cost of Taka 32.62 crore and is expected to be delivered to BSC within 18 months from the date of effectiveness of the contraction.

The contract is the first of its kind for construction of new multipurpose dry cargo vessel since the commencement of Third Five-Year plan.

With the acquisition of the ship the total fleet strength of

the Corporation would stand at 21 having a combined deadweight capacity of 2,70,000 tons. BSC has set up a target to acquire a total of 31 ships having a deadweight capacity of 5,85,000 tons by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan period, a source said.

/8309

CSO: 4600/1289

REVIEW SHOWS DECLINE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Dec 86 pp 1, 10

[Text]

The overall industrial production performance witnessed a major downswing in the first quarter of the current fiscal year (1986-87) Barring jute manufactures all other industrial sectors recorded a sharp decline in production during the period under review. The output of fertilizer were down by 17 per cent and 26.6 per cent from the related levels recorded in the first quarter of the preceding year (1985-86). In cotton yarn and cloth sectors the decline in production was about 2.53 per cent and 7.34 per cent respectively. The production was up by 5.13 per cent only in jute manufacturing sector.

A recent review of economic performance by Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) further showed that the imports during the first quarter of the current fiscal year declined by 25.4 per cent from the level during the corresponding period last year. The decline was mainly due to fall in imports of oil (by 36 per cent) and industrial raw materials (by 28 per cent).

While the Broad organised economic activities in industrial and import operations reflected a sluggish trend the only redeeming feature of the economy was a satisfactory performance of the agricultural sector which contributes about 55 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The MCCI review pointed out that

the overall outlook for the agriculture for the current fiscal year was more or less satisfactory despite the localised floods in the early part of the year.

The price situation in the first quarter of the year (1986-87) remained under fresh pressures.

The consumer price index (CPI) registered an increase by 11.89 per cent. This increase reflected mainly the rise in the prices of essential commodities. The inflationary rate at a high pitch continued despite the slowing down of the rate of growth in money supply. The domestic credit expanded by 17 per cent during the period under report compared with 30 per cent in the corresponding quarter of the last year.

The broad money supply which includes notes-in-circulation, demand deposits and time deposits increased by 30 per cent in the 12 months ending September, 1986. The rate of expansion in narrow money supply which excludes time deposits was 12.6 per cent during the same period on an annual basis.

The foreign exchange reserves were under new strains during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. The reserves declined from 420 million in June, 1986 to 320 million US dollars in

October, 1986. The foreign exchange reserves during the first quarter of the current fiscal year were drawn down by 23.81 per cent notwithstanding the up-trend in workers remittances (by 5.5 per cent) and the growth of export earnings (by 10.36 per cent).

The growth in export earnings, as the review showed, was mainly due to encouraging performance of leather, frozen food and readymade garments. The export earnings from leather rose by 106 while those from frozen food and ready-made garments by 32.82 per cent respectively. There was, however, a sharp fall in the unit export price of raw jute and jute goods. Raw jute exports in terms of quantity rose by 34.17 per cent but the value declined by 26.54 per cent due to 45.25 per cent decline in its unit price. Jute goods' exports in terms of value increased by only 2.47 per cent despite a 21 per cent rise in export quantity during the period under report. The slower growth in export earnings from jute goods was due to 15.31 per cent reduction in its unit price.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1287

IAF PLANE MAY HAVE COLLIDED WITH U.S. F-14

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Dec 86 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 5--The "disappearance" of an Indian Air Force AN-32 plane might have been caused by a mid-air collision with a U.S. combat aircraft over the sea, according to a report now being examined by the Defence Ministry. The AN-32 has been missing since March 25. All contact with it was lost when it was about 200 km off the Gujarat coast.

According to the report, when the three brand new AN-32s were nearing the end of their flight (from the Soviet Union to India, with Muscat being their final halt) they were "buzzed" by F-14 Tomcats and F-15 Eagles, both carrier-borne aircraft. The Americans flew very close to the IAF planes, apparently taking close-up photographs.

It was suggested in the report that the AN-32 flying at the tail of the IAF formation and one of the Tomcats might have been involved in a collision, and the larger transport plane went down so quickly that its pilot did not have time to issue a distress call.

Whether the U.S. plane also crashed into the sea is not known, but the report notes that when Indian ships and aircraft tried to locate the wreckage during a search operation, there were American units in the same area, too. They had sought to make out that they were helping in the search.

The suggestion that a mid-air collision caused the accident does assume some relevance because it is known that the Americans would be keen to have photographs of the AN-32 military transport planes. Though it has been in production since 1977, not a large number of them are in use.

The AN-32 is not part of the Soviet Air Force's fleet, and India is one of the few countries to have opted for them since they were suited to the special requirements of the IAF--their capability to operate in a "hot and high" environment.

Therefore, the Americans got an ideal opportunity to photograph them when they were being ferried to India. Such photographs of aircraft silhouettes are widely used by all Air Forces for purposes of easy identification.

The disappearance of the aircraft remains a mystery. More so because if it had crashed into the sea, the chances of its wreckage being traced were not remote unless somebody had decided to remove it before the Indian search could be mounted.

/8309

CSO: 4600/1313

GANDHI CLARIFIES NEW POWERS OF ARUNACHAL GOVERNOR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Dec 86 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 8--Mr Rajiv Gandhi assured the Lok Sabha today that the special powers which the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh was being vested with under an amendment of the Constitution might in reality never have to be used at all. He referred to the very similar powers of the Governor of Nagaland "which have never been used."

The Prime Minister, who was intervening in the joint debate on the Constitution 55th Amendment Bill and the State of Arunachal Pradesh Bill said special powers were being given to the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh because it was a very sensitive State. "We felt these were necessary, especially in the present transitional period."

Mr Gandhi hoped that the Opposition members, who were as much concerned about the country's unity and integrity, would not ask for a weakening of the special provisions in this respect.

A second assurance which he gave today related to the protection of local customs, usages and special rights regarding ownership of land among other things. Mr Gandhi told the House that these special rights, customs, and usages were already protected under existing laws. "But if there is any doubt, I will not hesitate to give further protection," he said amid cheers.

He said that if special protection had been specifically provided for in respect of Mizoram it was only because the Mizoram leaders had wanted such a provision as part of the accord.

The special provision in respect of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh is in the form of a new Article to be inserted after Article 371 G of the Constitution.

The provision reads:

"371H. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh shall have special responsibility with respect to law and order in the State of Arunachal Pradesh and in the discharge of his functions in relation thereto, the Governor shall after consulting the Council of Ministers exercise his individual judgment as to the action to be taken:

Provided that if any question arises whether any matter is or is not a matter in as respect of which the Governor is under this clause required to act in the exercise of his individual judgment, the decision of the Governor in his discretion shall be final, and the validity of anything done by the Governor shall not be called in question on the ground that he ought not to have acted in the exercise of his individual judgment:

"Provided further that if the President on receipt of a report from the Governor or otherwise is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the Governor to have special responsibility with respect to law and order in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, he may by order direct that the Governor shall cease to have such responsibility with effect from such date as may be specified in the order."

It is also provided under the same Article, 371 H, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh shall consist of not less than 30 members.

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CSO: 4600/1302

CPI LEADERS PLEASED OVER CPSU, CPI-M RAPPROCHEMENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Dec 86 p 3

[Text] The central leadership of the CPI is happy that the CPSU has started treating their party and the CPI(M) on "an equal footing" in its assessment of the Communist movement in India. According to the senior CPI leaders this was demonstrated by the Soviet Communist Party leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, by talking to both the CPI and the CPI(M) delegations in Delhi during his recent visit to India followed by the current visit to Moscow by the senior-most leaders of the two parties Mr Namboodripad of the CPI(M) and Mr Farooq of the CPI.

The CPI leaders said that although their party enjoyed the official recognition of the CPSU, with which the CPI had fraternal ties, "both the CPSU and CPI(M) have been coming closer to each other." And we have welcomed and not opposed the move. We in the CPI are both idealists as well as realists. We are also happy for the fact that the CPI and the CPI(M) are coming closer to each other. The CPI(M) is coming closer to us and the CPSU at various levels based on its experience gathered at the international plane in the past four years. The CPI(M) seems to have given up its old idea of maintaining equidistance from Socialist camps, an important CPI leader said.

The change in the CPI(M) attitude, the CPI leaders pointed out, had been brought about by the "facts of history and objective necessity." The CPI(M) had come to realize that there was no alternative to the CPSU in the Communist world which had successfully achieved a Socialist revolution and running a Government on Socialist ideology.

Change

Moreover, the CPI leaders said the CPI(M) had discerned a change in the CPSU's line towards the other Communist parties, big or small, all over the world. "The CPI(M) realized that after Yuri Andropov came to power the CPSU wanted to help all the Communist parties. There was no question of dominating. It recognized the sovereignty of every Communist party. And with Mr Gorbachev in power the CPSU wants the Communist parties to unite. We believe only the CPSU has the power and capacity to unite the Communist parties. It is now even trying to draw closer to the Chinese Communist Party. Communist parties

can now only be influenced. They can no longer be guided by one or many centres of the Communist world. The CPI(M) has also experienced how in the past four years CPSU has come closer to the fraternal parties of the Socialist bloc. So it was not a surprise that Mr Gorbachev breaking past traditions agreed to meet the leaders of both the CPI and the CPI(M), Mr Brezhnev or any of his predecessors who visited India earlier never did this. Mr Gorbachev's meetings with the two Communist parties was, therefore, historic," the CPI leader said.

Cooperation

Senior CPI leaders said that their party was for cooperation with the CPI(M) on various political and economic issues and also for ideological exchanges. Both the parties could move unitedly in elections. The coordinating body of the CPI and CPI(M) in recent months had been activated and both the parties had made joint moves in various spheres. "All this exercise one day might bring the two parties together and the Communist movement in India might suddenly take a big leap forward," another noted CPI leader remarked.

Important CPI(M) leaders said that although their party was for pursuing an independent line with regard to other Socialist parties they too had noticed "a change in the CPSU's attitude in treating the CPI(M) and the CPI on equal terms."

"We still do not know whether this would eventually lead to the CPSU recognizing us as well," an important CPI(M) leader remarked.

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CSO: 4600/1297

CONTENT OF CONGRESS-S, CONGRESS-I MERGER RESOLUTION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Arun Sadhu]

[Text] Aurangabad, Dec 7--The merger of the Congress (S) with the Congress (I) became a near reality today when nearly 800 members, who attended the All-India Congress (S) Committee session, approved after a day-long discussion the unity resolution passed by the working committee yesterday. The eight-year-old Congress (S) will formally cease to exist from tomorrow, when the plenary session of the party will pass the same resolution in the presence of the Congress (I) president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Though a splinter group will continue to exist, the Congress (S), as it was hitherto known and identified, will no longer be there. Even many of the delegates to the session will not remember that the suffix "S" originally stood for Mr Swaran Singh in 1978. A few of the delegates thought that the letter stood for "socialist," while some from Maharashtra believed it meant "Sharad."

But even before the formal unification, the distinction between the two Congress parties had begun to blur in the minds of the delegates, as well as drafters of the political resolution entitled "resolution on Congress unity."

At several places, the resolution has ambiguously forgotten to specify which party it was referring to when it spoke of the "glorious traditions and great achievements," "revitalization and rejuvenation." Mr Pawar's presidential speech, too, contained these deft ambiguities.

The resolution said the Congress (I), led by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was the major Congress party in the country today. However, a reunified Congress was in the interest of the nation and was necessary to further the task of consolidating all nationalist, democratic, secular and socialist forces, it said. The AICC (S), "having given their serious and earnest consideration," had decided to reunify, merge and integrate together in the name of the Indian National Congress and under its flag, the resolution stated.

The AICC (S) felt that a reunified and rejuvenated Congress would be able to build up a fresh confidence among the people.

The resolution deals at length with the threats to the unity and integrity of the country, as also the tensions stemming from communalism, separatism, linguism and regionalism. It says that the people's hope for a viable alternative has been belied by the non-Congress Opposition parties. "Our repeated attempts to bring them together in response to urgent national needs have been unavailing."

"Once the people's hopes are shattered, their disillusionment and frustration will erode their faith in our political system and our goals—democracy, secularism, socialism, and freedom of action in international relations. We must not let that happen," it says. It calls upon the party men and says "It is time to take stock of our weaknesses and strength. While the policies of the Indian National Congress are relevant, valid, and unexceptionable, we have been drifting away from the people and their aspirations".

The Congress (S) president, Mr Sharad Pawar, while explaining the rationale behind his decision to join the ruling party, reiterated his commitment to the politics of consensus and collective decision making in his presidential address to the two-day unity session of his party. Mr Pawar made frequent eulogizing references to Mr Rajiv Gandhi, not forgetting to stress the latter's search for consensus in resolving national issues.

Mr Pawar's 12-page speech in English was marked by his faith in what he called "Congress culture," his disillusionment with the Opposition parties and his belief that despite its shortcomings the Congress alone represented the country's capacity for political mobilization and that it alone could hold the country together and counter the divisive forces.

Mr Pawar's speech and the political resolution, which presents a parallel line of arguments, avoided many delicate aspects of the merger move. Nevertheless, the presidential speech gives an impression of an inadvertent criticism of Indira Gandhi's style of leadership, while eloquently praising the new style of governance brought in by her successor.

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CSO: 4600/1299

REPORT ON CPI-M LEADER'S SPEECH IN MOSCOW

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 13 Dec 86 p 6

[Text]

From Our Correspondent

New Delhi, Dec. 12: The CPM general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, lashed out against the internal policies of the Rajiv Gandhi government during his visit to Moscow last week. Mr Namboodiripad, who was invited to the Soviet capital to attend a meeting of editors of all Communist Party organs, criticised the government during his official speech at the meeting.

Mr Namboodiripad made it clear that the CPM would continue to stridently oppose the "anti-people" policies of the Congress(I) while extending support to its "anti-imperialist" foreign policy. It is of great significance that the CPM leader chose to speak out in Moscow, despite the official Soviet support accorded to the Indian government and the cordiality that marked the Rajiv Gandhi Gorbachyov talks.

The speech, excerpts of which have been published in the latest issue of the CPM party organ, *People's Democracy*, makes it clear that despite the growing rapprochement with the CPSU, the CPM will maintain its independent stance on domestic

policy and not get swayed by the Soviet accolades for the present government.

While welcoming Mr Gandhi's foreign policy, Mr Namboodiripad refers to "pulls and pressures of various kinds (external and internal) which make all-out efforts to divert the Government of India from the nonaligned, anti-imperialist path, make it adopt positions of compromise with imperialism."

Mr Namboodiripad says that while there are tendencies towards compromise on foreign policy "on internal questions it (the ruling party) is anti-people through and through." Elaborating, he says, "The class policies adopted by the government on questions of socio-economic, educational, cultural and political developments create a wider gulf between the mass of the common people and the government."

Mr Namboodiripad warns that the government's anti-people policies and steps for privatisation in the economic field are threatening its anti-imperialist postures.

He says, "The policies of collaboration with private multinationals and bodies like the World Bank and the IMF—the

kingpin of the foreign economic policy of the Indian ruling class—lead to vacillations and hesitations on the part of the ruling party even in relation to foreign policy."

In a warning to the Soviets not to go by the present government's foreign policy stance alone, the CPM leader says, "Failure to see this contradiction between the two sides of the same class—the Indian bourgeoisie's opposition to and conflict with imperialism on the one hand, and on the other, all-out opposition to the working people—will weaken the struggle for peace and slow down the advance of the working class in the country."

The Moscow meeting, held between December 3 and 5, was convened by the editorial board of the CPSU organ, *Communist*. The invitation had been sent to the CPM politburo member, Mr B.T. Ranadive, in his capacity as the editor of *The Marxist*. However, as he was unable to attend, Mr Namboodiripad went himself, giving a further boost to CPSU-CPM ties. The CPI leader, Mr M. Farooqi, also attended the meeting and represented the CPI organ, *Party Life*.

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CSO: 4600/1311

TWO ACCUSED OF PASSING NAVAL SECRETS TO PAKISTAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Dec 86 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, December 8 (PTI)--Two persons, including a sailor, have been arrested by the special branch of the Delhi police for allegedly passing on naval secrets to officials of the Pakistan Embassy.

The sailor, Laeeque Ahmed, and Rafiq Ahmed Talvir, a resident of Gurdaspur, were arrested on November 24 for "collecting, obtaining and communicating" classified information to Pakistan intelligence officers, according to special branch sources.

According to a disclosure statement made by Laeeque Ahmed, who is employed at the naval officers' mess in South Delhi, a third person was the link between him and the Pakistan Embassy officials.

The two accused were today remanded to judicial custody till December 19, after two weeks police custody, by the additional chief metropolitan magistrate, Mr. Bharat Bhushan.

A camera and a defence document were recovered from Laeeque Ahmed's residence. Sources said the camera contained 34 exposures while the document was a photo-stat copy of important telephone numbers at naval headquarters.

A case under sections three, five and nine of the Official Secrets Act read with section 120B of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at the Tilak Marg police station.

It was stated in court that both the accused were "thoroughly interrogated for more details regarding their clandestine activities and for help in the arrest of other members of the spy ring."

Meanwhile, arguments on an application by the naval headquarters to keep Laeeque Ahmed in naval custody instead of judicial custody will be heard on December 11.

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CSO: 4600/1301

ANALYST: PAKISTAN FEARS OVER EXERCISES UNFOUNDED

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Dec 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec 11.

The Indian Army and Air Force are now engaged in the biggest ever peace time exercises on the western borders testing the effectiveness of the country's defence plans.

Though such exercises are an annual feature, these war games as they are called in military terminology are on a much larger scale this year than in the past.

The Director-General of Military Operations at the Army headquarters in Delhi has kept his opposite number in Pakistan informed of these exercises over the hotline in accordance with the established practice.

The initial Pakistani reaction was to suspect something sinister since the Air Force had been employed in these exercises for the first time. But the Pakistan President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq and his military advisers realised that there were no hostile Indian intentions behind the heavy troop movements that were taking place either along or close to the border, or the deployment of many Air Force squadrons at forward bases for these exercises.

'War rumours': These military manoeuvres actually started last month amid totally unfounded rumours on the Indian side as well that a war with Pakistan was imminent. The exercises are still continuing in different sectors with the highest concentration of activity in the sparsely populated border areas of Rajasthan.

The other day when Zia claimed that the Indian Army and Air Force were either carrying, or using on some occasions, live ammunition during these exercises. But he has taken care to dispel fears of an impending Indian attack on Pakistan.

In an unprecedented move, the Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Khan Junejo and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Yaqub Ali Khan, arranged a special briefing for members of the National Assembly by the top brass of the Pakistani armed forces led by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Gen. Rahimuddin Khan, to assure them that there was no immediate threat of another Indo-Pak conflict. They were also told that very soon the Pakistani Army would be conducting its annual exercises along the border observing the established conventions.

Zia's allegation: But Gen. Zia raised a red herring when he claimed that the number of troops involved in the massive military movements on the Indian side during these exercises exceeded the total strength of Pakistan's armed forces. The allegation was evidently intended to give the impression that India was conducting these exercises on a needlessly large scale, implying that perhaps it had some deeper motives in doing so at this time even if this did not pose an immediate threat to Pakistan.

It is widely known that the Indian Army has about a million men, organised into 31 divisions including two armoured divisions, besides several independent brigades. About a dozen divisions are permanently deployed on the Himalayan and Karakoram borders facing the Chinese in Tibet, while another three or four divisions are stationed within the country as strategic reserves, leaving only 16 divisions for the defence of the western borders with Pakistan.

The Pakistan army which has a strength of 650,000 men consists of 22 divisions including two armoured divisions, with the usual comple-

...for independent brigades. But it has only
lined only three divisions along the border
with Afghanistan and one in Baluchistan, while
keeping two others in reserve for internal security
duties in Sind, Punjab and other places. It
has deployed the remaining 16 divisions along
the Indian borders with a virtual parity in the
strength of the two opposing armies on the western
front.

Sobering effect: It would have made sense if
Gen. Zia had explained that, when the two armies
are engaged in their annual exercises along
the borders from Jammu and Kashmir through
Punjab to Rajasthan, they are more or less evenly
matched in strength, instead of alleging that
the number of troops deployed by India in its
latest exercises exceed the total strength of Pakistan's
armed forces. But what is significant is that the
operational mobility and manoeuvrability being
displayed by the Indian Army and Air Force in these
exercises is bound to have a sobering effect on the
hotheads in Pakistan who still talk of avenging the
1971 humiliation.

In modern warfare, what matters is not merely
the numbers of troops that are engaged in battle
but the painstaking staff work that goes with the
planning and conduct of the operations through a
well-integrated command structure with proper
professional direction. As in contract bridge, so in
present-day warfare, the war is won by the side that
has the capacity to ensure that at least 60 per cent
of its operational plans succeed in achieving the
prescribed objectives.

And military exercises are primarily intended to
test the competence of staff planning and command
structure under simulated battle conditions.

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CSO: 4600/1308

STUDENTS OBSTRUCT ACCESS TO ORISSA BASE SITE

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Dec 86 p 13

[Text]

From Our Staff Reporter

VISAKHAPATNAM, Dec. 10.

The setting up of a missile base at the Baliapal Bhogari area in Balasore district of Orissa for defence purposes has been met with strong protests from students. Almost the entire area of 400 sq.km. is under the siege of the locals and nobody, including officials, can sneak in as student volunteers have positioned themselves all over.

With the Bay of Bengal in the south, the Subarnarekha river in the east, Hanskara river in the west and the Coastal Canal in the north, the area is inaccessible except through checkpoints set up at Jamkunda, Naighati and Panchuppali. These three checkpoints are heavily guarded round the clock. Any intruder can be detected easily because the locals have been issued identity cards. They use conches to signal the visit of a stranger.

On March 3, 1986, when the District Collector reached the Naighati checkpoint, the guards obstructed him. Soon about 11,000 people gheraoed him. The Collector was then taken to Baliapal, a distance of 12 miles by walk. For the past one year villagers are not paying any tax on lands or goods and, according to officials, a mini civil disobedience movement was going on in this land.

Explaining the situation in this area, Mr. C. Bhaskararao, general secretary of the State branch of the OPDR, who is a member of the fact-finding committee that visited the area, and Mr. Arun Kumar Jena, Secretary, Student Front Against Missile Base, sought the cooperation of youths from all over the country in their fight.

At a solidarity convention held in Andhra University here on Tuesday under the auspices of the State Democratic Students Organisation, they pointed out that about 12,000 families from all the 134 villages would be affected by the proposed project.

Three crops are raised in a year in this rich belt, they said. Apart from paddy in about 52,000 acres, betel vines are being raised in 2,000 acres. Besides, there are 1.5 lakh

coconut trees. Commercial crops like cashew and groundnut are also raised, they said. All these were fetching Rs. 50 crores annually. That apart, this part is considered the rice bowl of Orissa.

There are 133 educational institutions, including two colleges. Agricultural economy is so high that a family of six members can live comfortably by raising betel vines in a plot of five cents. "Are we to lose these earnings and seek petty jobs that cannot provide us with substantial income," they asked.

They also pointed out that the statements of the State Chief Minister, Mr. J. B. Patnaik, and letters from the Union Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Arun Singh, to the former Minister, Mr. Samarendra Kundu, indicated that it was going to be converted into the Cape Kennedy of India. They felt that even Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles with thermo-nuclear warheads would be set up.

The protestors went in a procession to the District Collector, Balasore, on November 10 and presented a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister urging him to give up the idea of setting up a missile base. Seven leaders, including Mr. Arun Jena, Mr. Sasidhara Pradhan and Mr. Anantnag, were arrested on November 4, for staging a dharna.

The agitation is now being spearheaded by the Ksepanastra Ghatti Birodhi Committee of the Student Front Against Missile Base and the Ksepanastra Ghatti Nirodh Santhikana Ghanasamakhyas. An all-party action committee has also been formed in Balasore district.

According to their directions, a district bandh was observed on December 5 last. "We will not allow the missile base. We will fight to the last", Mr. Arun Jena said. He said ICBMS proposed here were of a long range covering 5,000 km and their installation would directly involve India in the superpower race.

DSO representatives said they would organise conventions in all universities in the State to muster students' strength against the missile base. The State Secretary, Mr. P. Kotireddy, presided.

ARMY STAFF CHIEF DISCUSSES AWACS FOR PAKISTAN, DEFENSE STRATEGIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Dec 86 p 16

[Text]

The Times of India News Service
BANGALORE, December 12.

PAKISTAN'S proposal to acquire Air borne Control and Warning Systems (AWACS) from the United States has forced India to look for equally sophisticated alternate defence strategies to combat these powerful weapons systems.

The AWACS would give Pakistan all information about the country's air traffic and surface operations, the chief of army staff, General K. Sundarji, said yesterday.

Talking to newsmen here, he said the country was concerned over the acquisition of several such force multipliers by Pakistan and China which could change the "ball game" drastically since the force multipliers had the capability to increase the ability of the army in waging an electronic warfare.

He said while Pakistan was acquiring state-of-the-art technology from the U.S. In this area, India was taking the indigenous route. In India, research was underway for the indigenous development of some of these gadgets resorting to imports only when indigenous manufacture was not possible, Gen. Sundarji said.

This proved to be time-consuming and frightfully expensive, he added.

Gen. Sundarji said India would have liked to proceed with its modernisation plans in the defence sector at an easy, relaxed pace but "our hands are being

forced by the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by our potential aggressors."

He said although there were no war-clouds over India, there was a big "hullabaloo" being raised by Pakistan on some of India's routine manoeuvres undertaken from time to time in the border areas. "There need be no cause for alarm since they are aware of our large-scale operations as we are of theirs."

These exercises had the sanction of both governments and were being held for the last three years. India would repeat these exercises early next year, he added.

He pinned Pakistan's reasons for such a hue and cry on this issue as something entirely different, possibly out of some vested interest they had. Hence they were making a mountain out of this particular molehill, he observed.

Several powerful forces in the world were trying to stop the Indian defence forces from growing into its natural strength, Gen. Sundarji warned. "But I don't think they will succeed. I am convinced that India will move into her natural strength sooner than later," he observed.

HELICOPTER SQUADRONS

He said the army was in the process of raising utility squadrons of helicopters for wide application during war. They would be used as airborne platforms for sensors, surveillance, light logistics, medicare evaluation and a host of other missions. These copters would be flown by army officers.

However, the attack helicopters mounted with anti-tank guided missiles which were formerly with the air

force were now brought under the army's command to be used for specific missions carried out by the armed forces. These attack helicopters, though still flown by the IAF pilots, were being integrated at the functioning level for better performances.

Replying to a question on whether the greater involvement of the armed forces in maintaining law and order in civilian areas affected their primary role of defending the country against external aggression, Gen. Sundarji said to an extent it did cut into the army's functions and he would like to see it happening on fewer occasions.

However, he was confident that with the recent steps taken by the government to improve the ability of the police and para-military forces, the army's role on these occasions would become less important.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY FOR UK SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY GUN

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 7 Dec 86 p 4

[Text]

London, Dec. 6 (PTI): Britain has offered to supply India the 155 MM self-propelled artillery gun.

According to reliable sources here, the gun, mounted on a tank, has already completed firing, mobility and other technical trial runs. The trials, which were undertaken sometime back under the supervision of British and Indian artillery experts, were reported to have been successful.

The offer for a self-propelled gun, called 155 MM (SP) in defence terminology, came up after India's decision to buy 155 MM field guns from Sweden.

The 155 MM SP offered by Britain has been developed by the Vickers Defence Systems and manufactured by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering. The British forces are equipped with the 155 MM (SP) mounted on the chassis of a Chieftan tank.

Experts here are of the opinion that the 155 MM (SP) gun will increase the fire power of the artillery as it can be taken to any combat zone through rough or difficult terrain irrespective of weather conditions.

The negotiations for the sale and transfer of technology of the self-propelled gun are at a very advanced stage, the sources said. The gun will be mounted on the chassis of India's prestigious tank, Vijayanta.

The gun has a firing range of 24 km and it can be increased further to 30 km by using special projectiles, in both high and low elevation due to the ballistically balanced charge system and an elevation range of minus 5 to plus 7° degrees.

In order to prepare the hull of the Vijayanta for the mounting of the gun and the turret, there might be a slight modification in the tank's manufacturing manuals.

The Rolls-Royce Perkins are expected to supply the new diesel engine required to perform multi-roles of the Vijayanta equipped with 155 SP. The new engine has completed 4,000 miles stress driving tests on the Vijayanta. The Perkins are happy with the outcome of the test, the sources said.

Ballistic experts here are of the view that the ammunition to be used in the 155 MM field gun, which India has decided to purchase from Sweden, and 155 MM SP are of different calibre. However, British experts are reported to have assured India that their 155 MM SP will be able to use the ammunition meant for the 155 MM field gun.

The Turret mounted on a Vickers Mark III chassis was first shown at the British Army exhibition in 1982. It has a crew of four. The layer is accommodated forward on the right, with the commander to his rear. The shell loader is to the rear left with the charge loader in front of him. Access is through hatches on the turret roof and sides. Ammunition is stowed in a magazine at the rear of the turret.

SIKKIM PLANNING TO EVICT 7,000 NEPALIS

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 11 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

From Our Correspondent

Gangtok, Dec. 10: The Sikkim chief minister, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari, has asked the 7,000 Nepali nationals employed in the state by the Border Roads Organisation on work permits to leave by the end of the year. The chief minister has directed the authorities not to renew the permits of the Nepalis after December 31.

Addressing a series of public meetings in the tribal-dominated areas of north Sikkim early last week, Mr Bhandari reiterated his government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of the minorities in the state. He warned the people against divisive forces which, he said, were bent on disrupting peace and communal harmony in the state.

The state Congress(I) has strongly criticised Mr Bhandari for his stand on the Nepali nationals working in the state. It argues that the eviction of the Nepalis will adversely affect the construction of roads. However, the eviction would be at variance with the Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950.

The state Congress(I) has also taken exception to Mr Bhandari's opposition to the amendment of the Citizenship Act, which

was recently approved by Parliament. Describing the chief minister's stand as "anti-constitutional, anti-Parliament and anti-national," the PCC(I), in a press release issued last week, asserted that the amendment of the Act was applicable to Sikkim as it was a part of India. "Is Bhandari above Parliament or is Sikkim still an independent state?" the PCC(I) asked.

The Congress(I) attack followed reports that Mr Bhandari had demanded that the amendment be revoked and the over 30,000 "stateless persons" be granted citizenship. He had also demanded the inclusion of the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule and the restoration of state Assembly seats for Nepalis.

Mr Bhandari maintains that the so-called stateless persons are genuine Sikkimese who were denied citizenship during the Chogyal's regime for political reasons.

However, many others in the state, including Congress(I) leaders, say the figures frequently cited by the chief minister are an exaggeration. Mr Bhandari's main aim, they allege, is to grant citizenship to outsiders for political gains.

/8309

CSO: 4600/1305

NORTHEAST PARTIES HOLD REGIONAL CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Dec 86 p 6

[Text]

Our Staff Correspondent

Guwahati, Dec 11—The conclave of the North Eastern regional parties held here on Tuesday last at the initiative of Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta has decided to chalk out a "suitable action programme" against the Centre's injustices towards the region.

The action programme would be chalked out at a meeting of these parties to be held at Guwahati in the first week of February next. For this purpose a preparatory committee with Mr Mahanta as its convenor has been formed.

The conclave has demanded that the Centre should implement the Assam accord sincerely and to amend immediately the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act 1983.

Criticising "the half-hearted attitude" of the Centre towards the development of the region, the conclave demanded immediate sealing of the international border in the region to prevent any trusion from the foreign lands.

The leaders also expressed concern at the intrusion of Chinese troops into Arunachal Pradesh. They alleged lack of concern shown by the Union Government in this regards. They lamented the fact that no Central Minister so far has visited the area, rather all the Central funds allocated for various projects in the province had been stopped.

The parties that took part in the conclave included: the People's Party of Arunachal led by former Chief Minister Tomo Riba, the Arunachal Volunteer Force, the Hill People's Union of Meghalaya led by former Chief Min-

ister B B Lyngdoh, the People's Conference of Mizoram and the Manipur People's Party. The Nagaland National Democratic Party and the Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti could not attend due to the Assam bandh.

In a letter of Mr Mahanta, TUJS leader Nagendra Jamatia has expressed full confidence in Mr Mahanta's initiative for a joint platform. This is for the first time that the TUJS has responded to such a call. However, the Plain Tribals Council of Assam (PTCA) and MNF of Mizoram did not attend the conclave.

TEXT OF GOVERNMENT STATEMENT REJECTING PRC PROTEST

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.

The Government of India tonight came out with a statement rejecting China's contention that the conferment of statehood on Arunachal Pradesh, which was an integral part of the Indian Union, amounted to a violation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty in this region.

A spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs said the Chinese statement constituted a 'clear interference' in India's internal affairs.

The following is the text of the Indian statement:

'The conferment of full statehood on the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh, which is an integral part of the Indian Union with an elected legislature is entirely a matter for the Parliament of India to decide. We deeply regret the statement made by the official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC which constitutes a clear interference in the internal affairs of India. The statement of the official spokesman is totally unacceptable.

'The Government of India has been constantly making efforts to normalise relations with the PRC. Since 1981, when the Chinese Foreign Minister visited India, seven rounds of official level talks have been held between the two Governments covering the boundary question as well as other areas of bilateral relations.

'Baseless allegations'

'There has been considerable progress made in developing cooperation in commercial, economic, scientific and technological fields. Although progress in regard to boundary question has been slow, agreement had been reached between the two sides on maintaining peace and tranquillity on the so-called Line of Actual Control in the eastern as well as western sectors.

'We, therefore, sincerely regret that a statement has been made levelling baseless allegations regarding the so-called occupation of Chinese territory through domestic legislation in a manner which is entirely contrary to China's professed desire for a peaceful settlement of the boundary question.

The Government of India sincerely hopes that the five principles of peaceful coexistence to which both countries subscribe will guide the relations between the two countries.

Yesterday in Beijing, an official spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs had said India 'seriously' violated 'China's territorial integrity and sovereignty' by 'upgrading Arunachal Pradesh to the level of a State'. Beijing describes it as "a part of Chinese territory" under 'illegal' Indian occupation.

The Chinese Embassy in Delhi today released the text of the statement which strongly denounced the Constitution Amendment Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament.

The Chinese spokesman had said: 'It is entirely futile for the Indian authorities to try to legalise the occupation of Chinese territory through domestic legislation.' He warned of serious consequences arising from what was described as an 'absolutely illegal action'.

The statement added: 'As is well known to all, the boundary between India and China has never been formally delimited. However, a traditional customary boundary respected by the two peoples has long taken shape on the basis of the extent of each side's administrative jurisdiction'.

'The McMahon Line contrived single-handedly by the (British) colonialists in 1914 during their rule of India', the Chinese spokesman maintained, 'is illegal and null and void and has never been recognised by any of the successive Chinese Governments'.

He alleged: "After Independence, India has not only carried on with the occupation of Chinese territory, invaded and occupied by the colonialists, in the 1940s but further pushed forward. The so-called Arunachal Pradesh is basically an Indian-occupied area of the Chinese territory lying between the traditional customary line and the illegal McMahon Line".

The Chinese spokesman said: "China has always stood for a comprehensive settlement of the Sino-Indian boundary question through friendly consultations in a spirit of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. Most regrettably, however, India has deliberately taken the above mentioned steps during the on-going Sino-Indian talks on the boundary question."

The Chinese statement did not say anything new, other than restating, presumably for purposes of record, Beijing's oft repeated stand on the McMahon Line. The only new thing was the strident language used to reiterate Chinese claims, along with a threat of serious consequences.

Intruders still there

The Chinese troops which intruded into the Sumdorong Chu valley last summer and set up a military post are still camping at this place after making full preparations for spending the winter months there. But it is highly unlikely that the Chinese will attempt more token incursions this winter, while the high mountain ranges remain blocked by snow, to assert their territorial claims across the McMahon Line.

But the political atmosphere for the next round of official level talks due to take place in Delhi early next year has been strained if not marred by these developments. The two sides see no harm in keeping up this dialogue even if it has outlived its utility and run into a dead end for all practical purposes.

However, the normal exchange of delegations at different levels is continuing unhampered by these developments. A Chinese Communist party delegation, led by the deputy head of its international liaison department, is arriving on December 20 at the invitation of the CPI (M) on a 12-day visit. And the two Governments have been thinking of exchanging delegations of journalists in the near future to help create better understanding between Indian and Chinese media representatives.

/8309

CSO: 4600/1314

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER PRC ROLE IN NEPAL PROJECTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Dec 86 p 6

[Text]

Our Special Correspondent
India has conveyed to Nepal its serious concern over China's involvement in projects being set up by Nepal close to India's borders, in utter disregard to India's security concerns.

The Indian views are understood to have been conveyed during the talks the visiting Nepali Industry Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan has had in the Capital with External Affairs Minister N D Tiwari and Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh.

The Indian side is learnt to have told Mr Pradhan that it discerned a pattern in Nepal's disregard for India's security considerations by involving China in projects that are or to be located close to India's borders. The Nepali side is believed to have taken note of India's anxieties on the score.

India has also been unhappy that despite several friendly gestures, like extending credit facilities, providing employment opportunities to Nepali nationals, granting assistance to the tune of Rs 80 crore a year in running hospitals and schools, and extending assistance in completing developmental projects, Nepal has chosen to disregard India's security considerations.

During his stay in the Capital, the Nepali Minister also met Finance Minister V P Singh, Industry Minister Vengala Rao, Commerce Minister Shiv Shankar.

The talks are learnt to have covered a wide range of subjects related to bilateral economic cooperation.

The thrust of the talks has been towards reducing Nepal's trade imbalance with both short-term and long-term measures. To tide over the immediate difficulties, India has already extended to Nepal a Rs 15 crore stand-by credit.

As a long-term perspective, several measures are understood to have been discussed, including joint ventures, buy-back arrangements, early completion of irrigational and hydro-power projects, and trade in newer areas.

These measures are being viewed and considered as steps to evolve a system which would enable Nepal to sell more to India and reduce its trade deficit over a period of time. According to sources, both sides have agreed to continue discussions and arrive at a comprehensive agreement.

/3309

CSO: 4600/1315

PAPERS REPORT VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER

Interviewed by TIMES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by D.G. Gupte]

[Text]

By D. G. GUPTÉ

BOMBAY, Dec. 13.

FOR correcting the disequilibrium in trade between India and France, joint ventures between Indian and French firms in industrial and commercial sectors can help significantly, by producing and exporting goods and services from India.

Mr. Michael Noir, French minister for foreign trade, who is on a visit to India, accompanied by a delegation of the Confederation of the French Industry (CNPF) told the 'Times of India' in Bombay on Saturday, before leaving for France, that close political understanding and friendship between the two nations had opened the widest prospects for the development of co-operation between the two countries in all fields.

He said that India has the best political framework in the field of economic affairs and France could fit in perfectly in the Indian government's programme of reducing dependence on imports, encouraging transfer of technology in hi-tech areas and setting up joint ventures by the companies in the two countries.

Mr. Noir said he got the feeling that the government of India was anxious to gradually alleviate several of the administrative controls and obstacles to the development of private initiative and a greater international opening of the Indian economy.

He said such a trend was clearly set in France by the economic policy of the present government, since its coming to office in March last.

Mr. Noir said that the French government had virtually done away with all kinds of administrative controls on foreign exchange and prices. Unnecessary controls on employment had been abolished. Taxation on companies had been reduced and the process was expected to continue in the budget for 1988. France had already started a vast privatisation movement that concerned many of its major industrial firms. In this connection, he referred to the success of the privatisation of Saint Gobain that took place in recent weeks. A very strong pace had been set in France for in depth liberal economic reforms, he said.

TEAM EXCHANGES

Mr. Noir said that although the trade partnership between India and France was not as developed and broad as it should be, a considerable momentum existed, thanks to some of the very major operations launched and concluded in the past two or three years.

He said the largest 60-member mission of CNPF was very much impressed by the visit to India. Many of the members already knew India since their companies were working in this market. Others were impressed by the new opportunities, and several joint ventures proposals were expected to materialise soon.

He said exchange of delegations of industry and trade councils between the two countries along with exchange of visits of ministers and government officials would go a long way in enlarging the economic ties between the two countries. The Festival of India in France was a great success in building up India's image. He said there was

need for better liaison between the two countries. There was good scope for encouraging tourism.

Mr. Noir said that he had brought a message from the Prime Minister of France for the Prime Minister of India. He also had interesting meetings with the foreign minister, minister of commerce, government of India, and other dignitaries.

SAFEGUARDS DESIRED

Referring to his country's position with regard to problems of GATT, Mr. Noir said that countries like India and Brazil did not want services to be included without having safeguards for preserving their own industries.

He said France and EEC member countries were proposing that negotiations should be held for including services by keeping in view the national interest of LDCs, and that safeguards would have to be mentioned and introduced. He said he had a long meeting with Mr. V. P. Singh, India's minister of finance, at the GATT meeting in this regard. He hoped that it would be possible to launch the scheme.

Mr. Noir said that his government was willing to identify areas for imports of Indian goods into the EEC by getting the quotas increased the reducing the tariff barriers. He said that some south European countries were opposing increasing imports from India. Although it was difficult to arrive at a decision in a group of 12 countries, France was supporting India's case in this respect. He said that the matter would be discussed further at the time of Mr. Shiv Shankar's visit there.

French Credit for India

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 14 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 13--India will get a mixed credit of Rs 700 crores from France for three projects, reports UNI. This is the first time that France will be extending such credit facilities to any country.

A protocol will be signed by the two countries soon in this regard, the visiting French Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Michel Noir, told reporters here last night.

The credit is meant for the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline project, Dulhasti hydroelectric project in Jammu and Kashmir and the purchase of Dauphne helicopters.

Mr Noir indicated that manufacturers of the Alpha jet trainer aircraft will be submitting their proposals to the Government for consideration on December 15.

He said he had "very fruitful and useful" discussions with Indian leaders, including the Ministers for External Affairs, Commerce, Energy, Communications, Petroleum and Civil Aviation.

He said his Government was keen on strengthening the excellent "political [word indistinct] between the two countries and giving an impetus to bilateral trade and economic relations.

Replying to a question, he said he did not visualize any problems in technology transfer in high-tech or other areas desired by India. All this depended on what he described as a "question of partnership."

About the proposed setting up of an electronic digital switching plant in Bangalore with French assistance, Mr Noir said he was given to understand that a favourable decision would be taken in a few weeks.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a concessional loan of \$4.3 million to Bhutan for highland livestock development, the ADB resident office in Dhaka said today, reports XINHUA.

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CSO: 4600/1316

INTEREST ON FOREIGN CURRENCY LOANS REDUCED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] Bombay, December 4--The all-India financial institutions--Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)--have reduced from December 1, the interest rates on their foreign currency loans.

The reduction ranges from 0.5 percentage point to 1.5 percentage points on the rates applicable to various currencies till the end of November, 1986.

The reduction in lending rates will be applicable to foreign currency loans covered by loan agreements executed by the borrowers of these institutions on or after December 1.

For all floating rate loans linked to the London inter-bank offered rate (LIBOR), the rate will be 1.5 per cent over LIBOR against 2 per cent over LIBOR hitherto.

For the fixed rate loans in U.S. dollars, the rate will be 10 per cent per annum. So far, the institutions were not having fixed rate for loans in U.S. dollars. For sub-loans from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), the rate will be 1.5 per cent per annum over the variable rate against the rate of 2 per cent so far.

The financial institutions have decided to reduce these lending rates, since they are currently able to obtain very favourable terms on their commercial borrowings abroad.

As it is, the cost of borrowing for the corporate sector on LIBOR-linked loans has come down as a sequel to the reduction in interest rates in international markets.

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CSO: 4600/1296

TROUBLES IN RECOVERING DEBTS FROM LIBYA, IRAQ NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 6--The Government of India is trying hard to recover nearly Rs.200 crores which Libya owes to Indian firms in the form of outstanding payments on contracts for various projects.

The sharp fall in oil prices has affected Libya's liquidity creating balance of payments problems. It has offered to pay this amount through oil sales. But the conditions that are being imposed are not acceptable to India because these restrict the country's right to swap these purchases in the world market to save on freight.

The payment problems with Iraq have been satisfactorily settled from the point of view of the Government. But individual Indian firms working there are not too happy with the deferred payment procedures since a fair amount of the money due to them will continue to be kept in abeyance, compelling them to sell more contracts to maintain a continued presence there.

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other Gulf States, which have also been hit hard by the crash in oil prices are not faced with any comparable payment problems. But unlike Libya and Iraq, these countries have been drastically cutting down new projects affecting many foreign participants, including Indian firms.

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CSO: 4600/1298

COMMERCE MINISTER CLARIFIES STAND ON GATT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Dec 86 p 9

[Text]

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI, December 4.

INDIA today served notice that it would refuse to ratify instruments involving any inclusion of the services sector in the general agreements on trade and tariffs (GATT) without proper safeguards.

The commerce minister, Mr. Shiv Shankar, hoped the objectives of developing countries would be taken into account during the negotiations. By clarifying its stand it had ensured that it did not become obligatory for India to accept an international framework of rules on services.

Explaining India's stand to the Parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry, he said that since the GATT rules were designed for regulating trade in goods, it was not appropriate to the area of services.

Moreover, in many service sectors, production and consumption had to take place at the same place, raising questions relating to establishment and immigration. The service sector had ramifications for the socio-economic structure of a country and, moreover, for many services international nodal agencies already existed.

Above all, the minister said, "we feared that if once services was brought within the framework of GATT, the leverage of trade in goods would be used to secure concessions in the area of services by the developed countries."

The minister shared the members' concern that there should be adequate safeguards to ensure that negotiations even outside the framework of GATT should not be to the detriment of developing nations.

He stressed that India would try to strengthen GATT rules to preserve the multilateral trading system and to consolidate the principle of special and differential treatment.

In this area also there had been problems on account of attempts by the developed countries to include investment and intellectual property in the agenda of GATT negotiations.

However, India was able to limit the scope of treatment of these subjects by ensuring that the negotiations were restricted only to the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and trade-related investment matters.

Indicating the latest trends in India's foreign trade, in the current financial year, Mr. Shiv Shankar informed the committee that during April-September, exports amounted to Rs. 5,357 crores against provisional figures of Rs. 5,018 crores during the corresponding period of 1985, showing an increase of 16.7 per cent.

Imports, on the other hand, have been held virtually at the same level as last year, having amounted to Rs. 9,239 crores between April and September this year as against Rs. 9,142 crores in the first six months of 1985-86, reflecting a marginal increase of 1.1 per cent. Thus, the trade deficit had declined to Rs. 3,382 crores.

Responding to the members' suggestions, the minister assured the committee that all efforts would be made to ensure that non-essential imports were not merely not encouraged but restricted and minimised to the fullest extent.

STATISTICS ON CRIMES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES, TRIBES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

Nearly 3200 people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes were murdered and about 4400 women belonging to these two classes "raped" in different parts of the country during the past about four-and-half years by "non Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes", reports UNI.

Of these, the major brunt was borne by the Scheduled Castes two thousand four hundred and thirty nine of them were murdered and 3122 women "raped".

This is revealed in an official document that was placed before the Rajya Sabha.

The report deals with these crimes and other offences from 1982 to between March and October this year.

Crimes against Scheduled Castes relates to 19 States and seven Union Territories while that of Scheduled Tribes to 14 States and four Union Territories.

Information from other States and Union Territories is "nil" the report pointed out.

The number of murder and rape cases of tribals was 728 and 1273 respectively and that of "grievous hurt" cases was 8019—6481 against SCs and 1538 STs.

Five thousand five hundred and forty arson cases were recorded against them during the period under review. The breakup for SC and ST categories is 4625 and 915 respectively. "Other of-

fences" amount to a staggering 62,917 of these the majority of 47,685 cases were against the Scheduled Castes and the balance of 15,232 on the Scheduled Tribes.

According to the report, Uttar Pradesh heads the list with 1652 murders and 1813 rapes (upto September, 1986) followed by Madhya Pradesh with 972 murders and 1661 rape cases (upto September last.)

Tripura has earned the distinction of being without a single murder case. However, there was a solitary case of rape against a Scheduled Caste upto August last. Jammu and Kashmir has four murders and nine rape cases recorded against Scheduled Castes upto September last.

Of the 19 States, no crimes were committed against Scheduled Castes in Assam and Manipur. Similarly no atrocities were reported against Scheduled Tribes from Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Tripura. Among the Union Territories, no case of murder was noticed against Scheduled Castes while Arunachal Pradesh had four murders of Scheduled Tribes and two from Mizoram.

As regards rapes Delhi and Goa had a case each pertaining to Scheduled Castes while Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram had shared one such incident involving STs during the period under review.

Of the total crimes against SC and ST persons committed by "non SC and ST" persons "during this period Madhya Pradesh tops the list with 38,874 incidents followed by Uttar Pradesh with 37,096 cases.

Tripura has only three similar incidents followed by 85 in Jammu and Kashmir. However, Uttar Pradesh heads the list of arson cases against these two communities with 2641 followed by 1639 in Madhya Pradesh.

While Tripura has not a single case of arson, Jammu and Kashmir had a solitary case recorded and Punjab four.

The State-wise break up of murder, rape and arson cases committed against SC and ST are: Andhra Pradesh—72, 147 and 38. Assam—zero, 2 and 1. Bihar—341, 452 and 1023. Gujarat—121, 73 and 133. Haryana—20, 142 and 22. Himachal Pradesh—five and Fifteen and thirteen. Jammu and Kashmir—four, nine and one. Karnataka—78, 43 and 130. Kerala—three, 99 and 40. Madhya Pradesh—972, 1661, and 1639. Manipur—two, one and zero.

Maharashtra—107, 262 and 158. Orissa—39, 97 and 62. Punjab—41, 39 and four. Rajasthan—219, 453 and 420. Tamilnadu—58, 57 and 42. Tripura—zero, one and nil. Uttar Pradesh—1652, 1813 and 2641. West Bengal—19, 40 and ten.

The State-wise total number of crimes committed against these two communities are:

Andhra Pradesh (1011), Assam (47), Bihar (3340), Gujarat (1336), Haryana (567), Himachal Pradesh (268), Madhya Pradesh (38874), Manipur (16), Maharashtra (3499), Orissa (960), Punjab (200), Rajasthan (9435), Tamilnadu (2585), Tripura (3) Uttar Pradesh (37096) and West Bengal (153).

Union Territories: Andaman and Nicobar (3), Arunachal Pradesh (86), Dadar and Nagar Haveli (2), Delhi (4), Goa (3), Mizoram (4) and Pondicherry (15).

/8309

CSO: 4600/1300

BRIEFS

INDO-SOVIET HEALTH ACCORD--India and Soviet Union on Wednesday decided to develop cooperation in the new areas of health and medicine such as space and aviation medicine, naval medicine, and transplant surgery besides the traditional systems of medicine, community care and control of diabetes melitue. A decision to this effect was reached after the meetings a delegation of the Ministry of Health of the USSR headed by Dr S.P. Burenkov, the Soviet Minister of Health had with Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare P.V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of State Saroj Khaparde and with the members of the Indian delegation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. After reviewing the results of cooperation in the areas of health and medicine in last seven years, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the implementation of 1979 Indo-Soviet agreement, particularly in the areas of communicable diseases and oncology. It was also decided to further improve the implementation of programmes in areas such as production of vaccines, blood, and blood products. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Dec 86 p 1] /9365

AUSTRIAN GOODS CREDIT--New Delhi, Dec 16--India will receive capital goods credit of 100 million Austrian shillings (Rs. 9 crores approximately) from Austria. The credit-agreement was signed here today by Mr S. Kannan, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, and Dr Erich M. Schmid, Austrian Ambassador to India. India has so far received approximately Rs. 27 crores as part of capital goods credit from Austria.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Dec 86 p 13] /9365

CARBON FIBER PLANT--New Delhi, Dec 16--India's first and totally indigenous pilot plant to produce carbon fibers has started production in the capital, making India one of the few countries in the world to manufacture this key material extensively used in space, aviation and defence. The plant, set up at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), here, envisages annual production of 400 kg of carbon fibres. The quality of the fibres are at par with commercially available carbon fibres in the international market, Dr O.P. Bahl, Assistant Director of the NPL told PTI. Dr Bahl said the plant was totally designed and fabricated by the NPL scientists with the knowhow developed by them. He said the scientists should be given chance to prove the commercial viability of the indigenous knowhow. Commenting upon India's achievement, Prof. J.B. Donnet of Centre de Recherches Physico-chimie des Surfaces Solids, France, said "Indian Government must decide how soon to start commercial production with the knowhow developed in the country." Prof. Donnet was here to attend a seminar and workshop on carbon fibres and their applications organised

by the India Carbon Society in collaboration with the NPL. Dr A.P. Mitra, Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), said efforts were being made to commercialise indigenous knowhow in collaboration with the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune, and Indian Petrochemicals Ltd. (IPCL) Vadodara. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Dec 86 p 13] /9365

INDO-SOVIET TRUCK COOPERATION--New Delhi, Dec 11--India and the Soviet Union today signed an agreement for the manufacture of 16-tonne capacity heavy duty trucks in this country under Soviet licence. Initially the Indian manufacturer would assemble the trucks from parts supplied by the USSR. The Deputy Minister of the Soviet Automobile Industry, Mr. B.G. Shakhnazarov, who led his country's team for the negotiations preceding the agreement, told newsmen that one of the main tasks would be to adapt the engine to tropical conditions in India. Initially only "several hundred" trucks would be assembled in this country. The Indian manufacturer would be free to export the vehicles once production began. The Soviet team was satisfied that Indian technical capability in this field was high and the time had come to establish long-term trading arrangements between the two countries. Proposals for the manufacture of heavy-duty trucks of 50 to 100 tonne capacity in India according to Soviet designs were under consideration. The Soviet team visited a number of units manufacturing automobile ancillaries, components and spares which the USSR had been buying for several years now. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Dec 86 p 7] /9365

CHINESE-MARKED WEAPONS--New Delhi, Dec 1--About 2,000 live 7.62 mm cartridges and a self loading rifle (SLR) barrel assembly with Chinese markings were found abandoned in the Gobindpuri area of South Delhi this morning. The South district Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Maxwell Pereira, said that the SLR barrel assembly was found by two constables on patrol duty from a sewer drain. They immediately informed the Station House Officer of Kalkaji who despatched the crime team to the spot. While the team was proceeding towards the Kalkaji Mandir on the Anand Mayee Marg, a small crowd was noticed on the sidewalk. Police personnel got down from their vehicle and found four lead boxes abandoned there. When the boxes were opened, the live cartridges were found. Mr Pereira said that the 7.62 mm cartridges are usually used in SLRs and light-machineguns. A case under the Arms Act has been registered. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Dec 86 p 1] /9365

FAMINE IN RAJASTHAN--Jaipur, December 14 (UNI)--The shadow of famine continues to loom large over Rajasthan. Official reports confirm that 2.57 crore of the total 2.70 crore rural population is in the grip of famine. Besides, 3.27 crore cattle population is affected. The kharif crop has been either destroyed or damaged because of scanty rainfall in one crore hectares of the total area of 1.11 crore hectares. Scarcity conditions aggravated by scanty rainfall have been declared in 31,922 villages of the total 27 districts in the state. The first clear warning sounded in September when only one district recorded above normal rainfall. In 21 districts, it was scanty. According to a memorandum sent by the state government to the Centre, Rs 869.20 crores would be needed to tide over the situation. The Union finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, sanctioned an ad hoc aid of Rs 13 crore which would help the state government to open relief works this month itself. More aid is likely to follow soon. A Central team will tour the affected areas from tomorrow. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Dec 86 p 15] /9365

AID FROM EEC--Brussels, Dec 10 (AFP)---The European Economic Community (EEC) announced yesterday financial support for development projects in South Asia worth 35 million European currency units (\$35 million). A grant of \$21.2 million is earmarked for India for the construction of 1,500 warehouses for rural cooperatives in the state of Bihar, an EEC communique said. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 11 Dec 86 p 8] /9365

AID FROM SWEDEN--New Delhi, Dec 9 (PTI)---Sweden will aid India in its universal immunisation programme for children and expectant mothers, an official release said here. Sweden agreed to contribute Rs 68.45 crores for 1987-88 to India for the purpose, the release said yesterday. Sweden would also cooperate with India in the areas of forestry, health, rural drinking water, sanitation, and energy, the release added. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 10 Dec 86 p 9] /9365

SOVIET SUBMARINE--New Delhi, Dec 3 (UNI)---One submarine has been acquired by the Navy from the Soviet Union recently, the minister of state for defence, Mr Arun Singh, told the LOK SABHA today. He said other details regarding the submarine fleet could not be divulged in national interest. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 4 Dec 86 p 5] /9365

DISSIDENT CONGRESS-S SECRETARIES--New Delhi, Dec 1--Mr Sarat Chandra Sinha, president of the antimerger group of the Congress(S), today appointed Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan, Mr Kishore Chandra Deo and Mr S.W. Habe as general secretaries of the party. He also appointed Mr Arunava Ghosh, a youth leader from West Bengal and former general secretary of the Youth Congress(S), as president of the youth wing of the party. As part of the reorganisation of officebearers following Saturday's split in the Congress(S) on the merger issue, Mr Sinha also "removed" Mr P.C. Chacko from the presidency of the Kerala Congress(S) and "suspended" him from the primary membership of the party. Mr K.K. Madhavan, vice-president of the KPCC(S), has been made working president in his place. The Congress(S) president also "removed" Mr Sailendra Joshi from the secretaryship of the Rajasthan PCC(S) and Mr Tejpal Singh as convenor of the Uttar Pradesh unit of the party. In Bihar, Mr Ramnath Saha, working president of the state PCC(S), has been asked to "take charge" of the state unit. Addressing a press conference this afternoon, Mr Sarat Chandra Singh said he had received a number of telegrams of support from different states. He said all members of the Kerala (PCC(S) except Mr Chacko had also sent telegrams supporting the group led by him. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Dec 86 p 4] /9365

CSO: 4600/4317

GOVERNMENT CLAIM OF MAINTAINING BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS REFUTED

Karachi AMN in Urdu 19 Nov 86 p 2

[Column "From Jumma Khan's Pen": "Ministers of Law and Justice Are There, Law and Justice Are Missing!"]

[Excerpts] Wasim Sajjad, federal minister of justice and parliamentary affairs, addressing lawyers at Faisalabad, said that the government wanted to make our democratic institutions stronger and that he would welcome any ideas in this context. He also declared that the basic human rights would never be denied to our citizens during the regime of the present government.

I think the lawyers at Faisalabad must have cast-iron stomachs to digest this kind of talk. Perhaps, they thought it best to remain silent. Perhaps, they did express some disagreement, but the newspaper reports only carried the text of the minister's speech. There was nothing about the audience reaction.

Until recently, our country was under a martial law that was originally imposed for 90 days but stayed for 8 and 1/2 years. The vestiges of the martial law regime are still with us. We cannot even get rid of the memories of martial law. We have not done anything to remove this mark of disgrace left by the military dictatorship.

During the martial law regime we had, among others, a minister of law. We were ridiculed by democratic people with remarks such as: "Why do you have a minister of law when you do not have any kind of law there?" Some people with a sense of humor would reply that there used to be a minister of railways in Afghanistan when there was no railway line there. There is nothing wrong with our having a minister of law even though we do not have any law!

In the Urdu language, the term martial law means military rule or military law. Under martial law, it may be that either the military laws are implemented or the whims of the commander-in-chief are followed. A commander-in-chief can issue or cancel any new order or law. For this reason, it is thought that no law is followed in a martial law regime. And in English, martial law is sometimes referred to as "no law."

With the removal of martial law, we were supposed to have a minister of law. This position, intentionally or not, was eliminated. We have no minister of

law now, and the name of the ministry of law has been changed to the ministry of justice. Now we have some kind of law, but no minister of law! We have a minister of justice!!! But a review of reports in various newspapers indicates that most people are not getting justice.

The law says that a political prisoner should not be handcuffed. Instead, he is shackled and put in a special ward. The law says that a prisoner must be set free when he finishes his sentence. However, leaders like Jam-e Saqi are still in jail after having served their time. The law says that a seriously sick prisoner cannot be kept in shackles and handcuffs, but Salim Moghul, who is very sick and is in Jinnah hospital, is wearing shackles despite the heavy police guard around him. The law says that a prisoner cannot be put into solitary confinement unless so directed by the court. Each prisoner is given specific treatment according to his crime. Our rulers, who believe they are following gentlemen's politics and who claim to be protecting our homes and our self-respect, put Benazir Bhutto in jail in solitary confinement without proving her crime. Is this justice?

Justice Minister Wasim Sajjad said that the government wanted to further strengthen our democratic institutions. We would like him to tell us of an organization in our country which can meet the basic, internationally accepted criteria for being a democratic institution. If he thinks that the National Assembly, the Senate, and the provincial assemblies are democratic, then he is wrong both constitutionally and on principle.

I welcome the justice minister's declaration that as long as this government is in power it will not suspend people's basic human rights. But first he has to convince me that people already have these basic rights!

I would ask the honorable minister of justice to review the courts, inspect the situation in prisons, and see how the police "function." Just take a look at the list of people who are in jail and for what reasons. He will learn that what is called "basic human rights" just does not exist in Pakistan. The reason is that all the basic rights promised to the people are still on the paper on which they were first written. They were never honestly implemented by anyone.

What is the use of a basic right when you have to go to a high court to get it? People just cannot afford to go to the high court with their cases. They have to pay thousands of rupees to lawyers to avoid being prosecuted and have the opportunity to complain. If our people have been given basic rights, then it has been made extremely difficult to use these rights. Suspending these rights just would not make any difference! Similarly, there simply are no democratic institutions here. The question of strengthening them does not arise. Until and unless elections based on universally accepted principles and guidelines are held and our people are given permission to exercise their rights to form a government, there cannot be any basic rights or any democratic institutions.

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PAPER ON INDIAN-PAKISTANI MILITARY BALANCE

BK100716 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 31 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Jerrold F. Elkin: "The Indo-Pakistani Military Balance"]

[Text] Indian publicists suggest that the introduction of sophisticated weaponry, such as the F-16, into the Pakistani inventory has served to (1) precipitate a bilateral arms race and (2) upset existing power relationship in the subcontinent. This article will demonstrate the invalidity of these assertions.

While mutual threat perceptions clearly have generated much procurement activity, broader security concerns play an increasingly significant role in arms acquisition decisions. For example, New Delhi regularly adduces the threat presented by Pakistan in justifying its arms purchases. However, an expanded arsenal also facilitates achievement of more sweeping policy objectives, such as gaining an ascendant power position in the Indian Ocean and, ultimately, attaining major power status.

As regards the second assertion, Islamabad's receipt of U.S. military equipment has done little to alter marked asymmetries in Indo-Pakistani strength levels. India continues to enjoy an overwhelming numerical and qualitative advantage in most weapon categories, and a like superiority in command, control, and armaments. Over the past 25 years New Delhi's annual defense expenditures have exceeded Islamabad's by a significant degree. New Delhi's military predominance will be reinforced by advanced Soviet weapon systems soon to be delivered or currently being assimilated by its armed services. These systems include T-72 tanks; BMP infantry combat vehicles; MIG-29/Fulcrum fighter aircraft (no delivery schedule noted as of March 1986); IL-76/Candid heavy transport aircraft; MI-25/Hind helicopter gunships; air-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles; high speed missile boats; submarines; multi-purpose radars; and communications equipment. Although Pakistan's reported interest in nuclear explosives predates India's military modernisation programme, it likely is driven in part by the perceived need to offset India's conventional warfare capabilities.

While New Delhi considers Pakistan to be an active and immediate security problem, China is its chief strategic concern.

The humiliation suffered in the 1962 Sino-Indian war, and Beijing's issuance of an ultimatum (ostensibly dealing with military posts on the Sikkim-Tibet frontier) during the 1965 Indo-Pakistani war, have had a lasting psychological effect on India's ruling elites. New Delhi's disquiet in respect to Chinese military intentions has contributed to the following policy determinations: the stationing of mountain divisions (trained for high-altitude operations) and IAF [Indian Air Force] squadrons in border areas, accompanied by an expansion of the regional logistics network; and the detonation of a nuclear device in 1974. India's Satellite Launch Vehicle development programme also may be actuated in part by a desire to design and fabricate ballistic missiles, serving as a counterpoise to China's ICBM force. A similar motivation (namely, fear of Chinese military capabilities) may implement the procurement of some conventional weapons systems, such as artillery suitable for mountain operations.

Pakistan and China form the core elements of India's traditional threat spectrum. However, New Delhi now discerns an expanded threat environment, focusing on the Indian Ocean and its periphery.

Recent IN [Indian Navy] weapon purchases have included Sea Harrier V/STOL fighters, Sea King anti-submarine helicopters, and third-generation Sea Eagle missiles from Great Britain; SSK Type 1500 submarines from West Germany; and TU-142M maritime reconnaissance/anti-shipping aircraft and Kasin-class guided-missile destroyers (with advanced fire control systems) from the Soviet Union. Further, the IN is acquiring additional landing craft, reflecting a heightened interest in amphibious warfare operations. Consequently, the Navy soon will be able to transport battalion-size formations, along with armor and artillery support.

This force projection capability provides a number of previously unavailable policy choices to Indian decision makers. For example, an amphibious landing in Sri Lanka to protect the Tamil population through suppression of domestic violence has become a credible military undertaking.

New Delhi's manifest desire to gain an ascendant power position in the sub-continent and Indian Ocean may constitute one element of a broader policy agenda. It is likely that India now views itself as an emerging power in the context of global, rather than regional, interaction. The arms modernisation programme, far more extensive than that needed to defeat Pakistan or counter a conventional Chinese attack, thus may be designed to provide a military underpinning for status elevation demands upon the international community.

India detonated a nuclear device in May 1974. This explosion was intended to enhance India's influence, particularly with Third World States, and to sensitise Beijing to India's increasing technological (and inferentially, military) competence, Pakistan's reported initiation of a nuclear weapons programme also may have been precipitated by this event.

Substantial political and military benefits would flow from Pakistani development of nuclear bombs. Attaining nuclear power status doubtless would propel

Islamabad into a position of leadership in the Islamic world. Further, a nuclear weapons capability probably would offset India's superiority in conventional armaments, thus enhancing Pakistan's defensive capabilities.

Senior Pakistani nuclear programme officials have stated that Pakistan now can produce weapons grade uranium, employing centrifuge enrichment technology. Nevertheless, President Zia disavows any intention to exploit nuclear programme assets for military purpose.

Islamabad probably will continue to issue pronouncements regarding its achievements in nuclear technology. In this manner, Pakistan well may gain the psychological/prestige advantages accruing to an (suspected) nuclear power, without causing a violent Indian reaction--e.g., an air or commando strike against Kahuta--or the abrupt termination of U.S. financial support.

If Pakistan in fact is assembling a nuclear arsenal, then the spectrum of Indian policy alternatives would include the following: exclusive reliance on conventional weaponry; a pre-emptive attack against Pakistani nuclear research installations; the stockpiling of nuclear weapons, both to counter-balance (and soon outstrip) Pakistani efforts and establish India as a major international power. Sole reliance on conventional weaponry likely would prove to be domestically unviable. It is thus possible that South Asia may witness the first nuclear arms race in the Third World. Both sides could employ combat aircraft as delivery vehicle. India also may use indigenously built ballistic missiles as weapon carriers (assuming it can improve existing guidance systems and perfect an ablative heat shield for warhead reentry). Indeed, fabrication of ballistic missiles may be imperative if India configures its nuclear force structure to reflect the Chinese, as well as Pakistani, threat. China's response to such measures could involve targeting unclear weaponry against India, augmentation of ground and air forces along with Sino-India, augmentation of ground and air forces along with Sino-Indian border, and broadened military links with Pakistan. This, in turn, would serve to increase Indian dependence on the Soviet Union.

There are a number of likely alternative futures for the Indo-Pakistani security relationship, among these being (1) continued mutual hostility at present intensity levels; (2) a fourth war, resulting in the defeat of Pakistani military forces (assuming Islamabad is not in possession of nuclear weaponry); and (3) increasingly harmonious ties, shown, for example, by an agreement limiting the size of units stationed in border areas.

The tenability of the second scenario rests on India's overwhelming superiority in conventional armaments. The defeat of Pakistan would resolve many security problems for India: On the other hand, it also could generate new and quite substantial concerns. Thus the Soviet Union may attempt to determine the course of domestic politics in a materially weakened Pakistan. If such machinations occasioned the disintegration of Pakistan, India would be compelled to assume administrative control over a large Muslim population. It therefore appears that New Delhi's defense interests could be promoted most

effectively by a stable and reasonably strong Pakistan (although not powerful enough to threaten India) serving as a buffer state.

Strategic cooperation with Pakistan clearly would facilitate the achievement of this objective. However such linkages probably could not be forged without an abatement of differences on the status of Kashmir. Nevertheless, initial steps at ameliorating Indo-Pakistani security disagreements have been undertaken. Should these overtures ultimately lead to regional detente, there may be a concomitant shift in weapon procurement policies, but no appreciable reduction in arms expenditures. To illustrate: an accommodation with Pakistan would [several words missing] not alter Indian perceptions of the Chinese threat or eliminate the need for coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone protection. Consequently, diminishing Indo-Pakistani tensions merely may result in a reallocation of pecuniary resources among the services, with increased funding for India's air and naval forces.

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ZAIN NOORANI REAFFIRMS STANCE ON AFGHANISTAN

BK131705 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Jan 87

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to pursue a just settlement of the Afghanistan problem, and said we will continue to show flexibility and cooperation to achieve this objective. In an interview in Islamabad today he said Pakistan would help in the promotion of an environment conducive to the settlement of the problem but would not compromise on fundamental principles. Talking in the context of Pakistan's reaction toward recent moves by the Soviet leadership about the Afghanistan problem he said Pakistan wants to promote a principled political settlement of the problem as soon as possible. This settlement will be in the interest of not only the people of Pakistan but also of the people of Afghanistan who made great sacrifices in the brave struggle for realizing the freedom and sovereignty of their country. Mr Zain Noorani said Pakistan has played prominent role in the Geneva talks and said a settlement is within reach if the only remaining issue of the withdrawal timeframe is resolved. Pakistan has made logical proposal on the timeframe for the withdrawal of troops keeping in view all the needs and demands for troops withdrawal. He said for a final settlement of the Afghanistan problem not only the accord between Pakistan and Afghanistan is needed but also the accord between the United States and the Soviet Union is essential, because they will be the guarantors for the implementation. Iran should also be included in this as a neighboring country where about 20 Lakh refugees are staying.

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BRIEFS

STAND ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY--A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has reiterated that Pakistan believes in the recognized international principles of honoring the territorial integrity of nations and noninterference in the internal affairs of one another. He said this while commenting on the recent report in THE HINDU, published in New Delhi, which said India has asked Pakistan to make its stand clear on the demand for Khalistan. The spokesman said if India desires, Pakistan can reaffirm these principles with India generally or specifically. He said Pakistan also clarified this stand at the time of the talks with the Indian foreign secretary who recently visited Pakistan. In reply to a question, the spokesman expressed concern over raising the issue of Pakistan's acquisition of arms by the Indian foreign secretary during his visit to the United States. He said Pakistan and India have agreed at the foreign minister level on the internationally recognized principle that sovereign nations have every right to acquire arms for their defense. But, unfortunately there is no uniformity in India's attitude in this matter. Pakistan has never opposed the steps taken by India to acquire arms. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jan 87 BK] /6662

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION IN ISLAMABAD--Formal talks were held in Islamabad today between Pakistan and Hungary on bilateral matters and international situation. The Hungarian delegation was led by Hungary's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn while the Pakistan delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar. They agreed to increase cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, and science. They also considered preparing programs for scientific and technical exchanges under the existing cooperation agreement. During the talks special attention was paid to matters relating to increasing trade between the two countries and identifying fields of mutual interest. Earlier, the Hungarian state secretary called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and exchanged views on bilateral matters and international issues. Talking to newsmen at airport on his arrival in Islamabad, Mr Gyula Horn said that Hungary wants to expand economic and trade relations with Pakistan. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jan 87 BK] /6662

GAFFAR KHAN DENIED ENTRY SIND PROVINCE--A PTI report from Islamabad says the Frontier Gandhi, Chan Abdul Gaffar Khan, was today denied entry into the Sind Province and turned back from Karachi airport. A police contingent reportedly

prevented Badshah Khan from meeting his supporters who had come to receive him on his arrival from Peshawar. Mr Gaffar Khan had planned to meet those affected by the recent ethnic bloodshed in the Sind capital and to attend the birth anniversary celebrations of the Sind nationalist leader, G.M. Syed. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 87 BK] /6662

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